■ METRO / A20

3 suspected car thieves die in Pasig shootout; police deny rubout

■ BUSINESS / B1

PLDT posts P25-B net profit in first nine months of '05

■ WORLD / A10

Raids in Melbourne, Sydney foil terrorist attack; 17 arrested

■ NEWS / A4

Bishops reach out to media, congressmen to help ease political, social unrest

Fuel prices reduced: Gas by 75¢; diesel by 50¢

By Abigail L. Ho

AS WORLD OIL PRICES CONTINUE TO SOFTen, local oil firms are reducing the prices of their gasoline products by 75 centavos a liter and of their diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter today.

Eastern Petroleum Corp. led the pack, im-

FUEL/A19

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Wednesday, November 9, 2005 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 334 P18
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Enrile's firm has legal right to log in Samar, says DENR

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT LAWYER WHO DRAFTed the controversial order allowing Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's firm to log in a protected area on Samar island said yesterday he did not take into account studies showing its forests should be conserved for their ecological wealth.

ENRILE'S/A8

Peso forecast: Sizzling

Swiss bank sees 54:$1 by December

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PESO IS EXPECTED TO continue its sizzling climb next year because of the implementation of the expanded value-added tax, according to a leading European investment bank.

In a report dated Nov. 3, Swiss financial services giant UBS said it had junked its old forecast of the peso plunging to 56 to the US dollar by the end of the year and the next.

UBS now sees the peso hitting 54 by the end of the year and 53 by the end of 2006. *(See related story in Business, Page B1.)*

The last time the peso touched the 53 level was in May 2003.

The peso gained 3 percent against the dollar in the past month and hit a five-month peak of 54.55 against the greenback last week. It is on course to end the year as Asia's best performing currency, according to analysts.

Yesterday, the peso closed at 54.65 against the dollar.

Besides the implementation of the expanded VAT on Nov. 1, remittances by overseas Filipino workers and higher interest rates have strengthened the local currency.

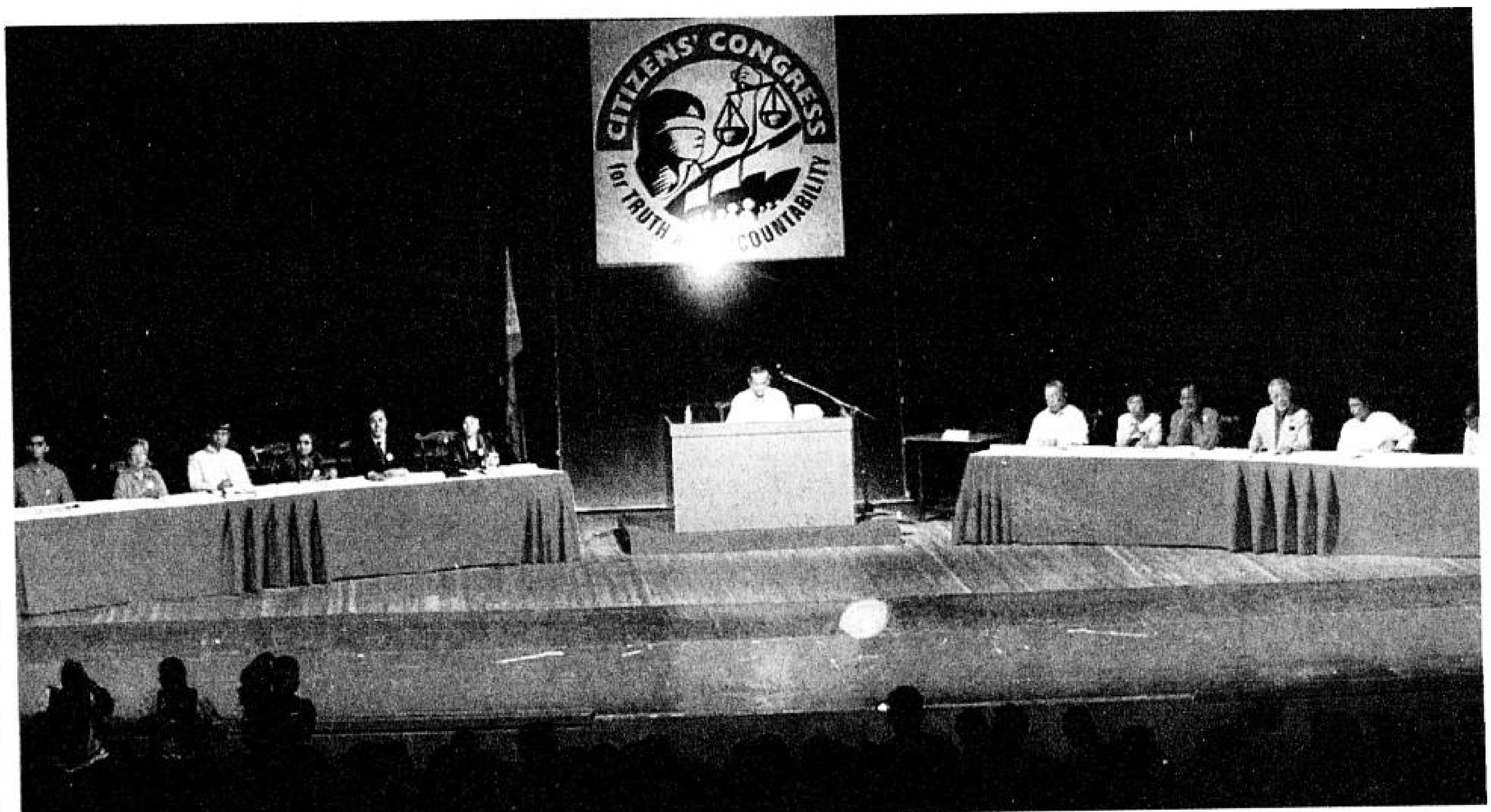
The new tax law lifted the VAT exemption of petroleum products and electricity, and jacked up the corporate tax rate from 32 percent to 35 percent.

UBS is also projecting a significant drop in the country's borrowing costs. It expects the interest rates on Philippine 10-year bonds to fall to 10.5 percent by the end of next year from just under 12 percent at present.

"The first part of the long-delayed VAT bill was implemented earlier this week. If not reversed, we believe this is the beginning of a sustainable turnaround in the Philippine fiscal position. We think this should continue to support the peso and the bond market," UBS said.

It considered the VAT implementation, which was delayed for four months, a "turning point" in the Philippine economy.

PESO/A19



DAY ONE. The Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability opens Tuesday at the University of the Philippines Theater with former Vice President Teofisto Guingona presiding. Speeches of opposition congressmen leave no time to present a single witness to present evidence or testify against President Arroyo. JOAN BONDOC

Secret witness to testify at Citizens Congress

By Norman Bordadora

A WITNESS TO ALLEGED ELECTION fraud who could not be named as a security measure will testify today at the Citizens Congress for Truth and Accountability (CCTA), according to human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong.

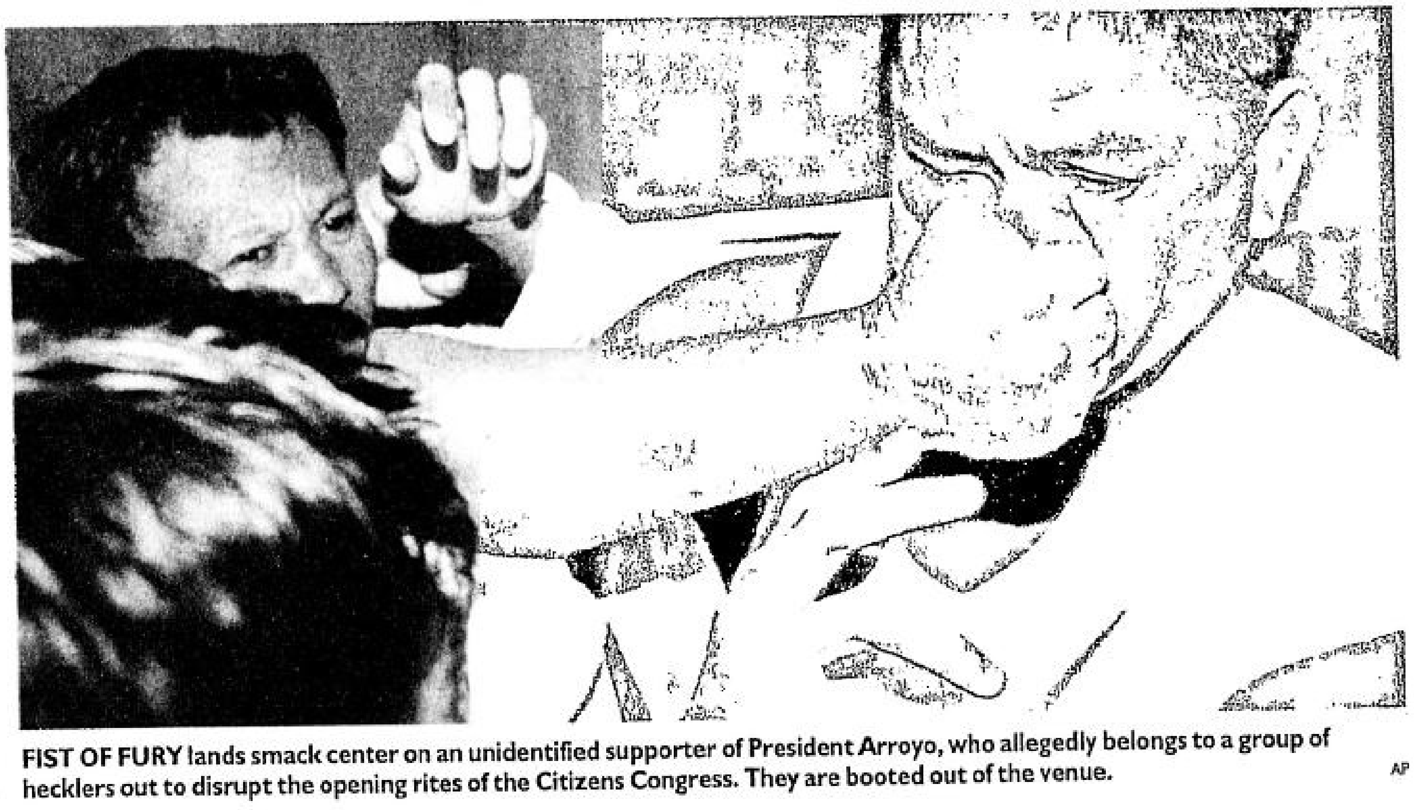
The congress convened to hear charges contained in the dismissed impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo opened yesterday as scheduled at the cavernous University of the Philippines Theater in Quezon City.

However, the proceedings were marked, not by new disclosures, but by the near-mauling of members of the pro-Arroyo Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Anad) shouting Red-baiting slogans.

The witness, whose identity was being kept under wraps by Capulong, was to have taken the "witness stand" yesterday. But there was no time for him to do so.

"This witness can't be identified right

SECRET/A8



FIST OF FURY lands smack center on an unidentified supporter of President Arroyo, who allegedly belongs to a group of hecklers out to disrupt the opening rites of the Citizens Congress. They are booted out of the venue. AP

Subpoenas served: 6 GIs accused of gang rape

By Philip C. Tubeza, Volt Contreras and Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila
Ansbert Joaquin and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT BY A 22-year-old Filipino accuses six US Marines of gang rape—punishable by life imprisonment or death under Philippine law.

Signed on Nov. 3—48 hours after the incident—by the woman who has requested that her name be withheld, it was released to the INQUIRER yesterday.

The incident happened on or about 10:30 p.m. inside a Starex van driven by Timoteo Soriano Jr. while it was traveling at the Subic Bay Freeport, the document said.

Although six Americans, including a John Doe, are named in the complaint, the narration stated only five—identified by their surnames—were passengers. It was unclear where the sixth American came in, although prosecutors have said this should be established during the preliminary investigation.

The complaint said the "accused, led by Smith, collaborating, conspiring and confederating with each other, entertained by their evil sexual desire, grave abuse of confidence, force and intimidation and with abuse of superior strength, committed carnal knowledge against the person (of the complainant) without her consent and against her will."

Yesterday, subpoenas issued by Olongapo City Prosecutor Prudencio Jalandoni were formally received by US officials at 2:30 p.m. at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Pasay City.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño

SUBPOENAS/A8

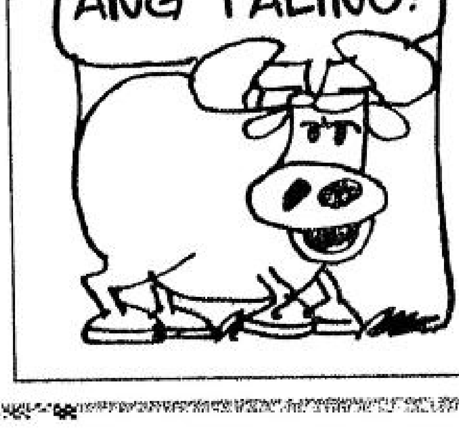
Doronila pulls out as envoy-nominee to European Union

INQUIRER COLUMNIST-ON-LEAVE Amando Doronila yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw his nomination as ambassador to Belgium accredited to the European Union (EU) and Luxembourg.

The veteran newsman was also the INQUIRER editorial consultant until President Arroyo named him ambassador to the EU early this year.

While his nomination was still un-

DORONILA/A8



SINAYANG ANG TALINO!

US landmark case: Fil-Am nabbed for hijacking 400K computers

By Joey Alarilla
INQ7.net

IN WHAT IS TOUTED AS A LANDMARK case in the United States, a 20-year-old Filipino-American has been arrested and indicted for allegedly hijacking thousands of computers, including US military servers, and mounting destructive attacks on them.

The Downey, California, resident has been identified as Jeanson James Ancheta, who allegedly uses several online aliases, including resili3nt and ResilienT.

US authorities claim Ancheta, through his "bots" or robots, has seized control of an estimated 400,000 computers.

He is accused of infecting "armies" of computers and turning them into bots

US LANDMARK/A19

Cyanide spills shut down Albay mine

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christine Gaylican

THE ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT has decided to suspend the operations of what had been billed as the flagship of the country's revived mining industry.

The foreign-funded P1.4-billion Rapu-Rapu polymetallic project on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay has been suspended after two mine spills allegedly caused cyanide contamination of nearby waters, officials said yesterday.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau said the suspension order would be served today on Lafayette Phil. Inc. after lapses in company operations caused mine spills on Oct. 11 and 31 at the project site.

"Because of the Oct. 31 spill, there was an unauthorized discharge of effluent from the tailings pond in which the cyanide levels are elevated beyond DENR (Department of Environment and

CYANIDE/A6

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Kabalu brod killed in drug raid

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—POLICE SHOT DEAD THE brother of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) spokesperson Eid Kabalu and another relative during a drug buy-bust operation here on Monday afternoon.

Abdul Bayan Kabalu, 40, the younger brother of the MILF spokesperson, was killed when he allegedly resisted arrest and fired at the police during the drug raid in Barangay Bagua, Senior Insp. Banarin Kamaong said.

Policemen, led by Senior Insp. Samson Obatay, chief of the PNP Special Operations Group, raided a house where a buy-bust operation was conducted to arrest Samsudin Katambak, a detainee who bolted the city police detention cell last month.

Kabalu and two other suspects identified by police as suspected drug dealers were cornered at their safe house, central Mindanao police Director Danilo Mangila said.

Mangila said the MILF spokesperson's brother resisted arrest and fired at the police. Another relative, Mustapha Arsad Kabalu, was arrested by the lawmen but Katambak managed to escape.

"The suspects were subjects of complaints of residents in the area for allegedly selling shabu," Mangila told reporters, referring to the banned stimulant methamphetamine hydrochloride, also known as "ice."

A lower court had issued arrest warrants against the three suspects for alleged drug trafficking, he said.

Eid Kabalu admitted Bayan was his younger brother, but denied that the latter was involved in the illegal drug trade.

The elder Kabalu said his brother "has no record of involvement in drug trafficking" and suggested "it could be a case of mistaken identity." "Granting he is a suspect in drug dealing, it did not justify his killing," he said.

"We are looking at filing a case (against the police), but we want to resolve this through the legal processes," the elder Kabalu told AFP.

Kamaong said police investigators were still determining what the Kabalus were doing in Katambak's house.

The killing could further complicate the government's peace talks with the MILF, being brokered by Malaysia, to try to end a nearly 40-year separatist conflict that has killed about 120,000 people.

"I don't think a comprehensive or lasting peace deal was ever going to be easily achieved at the talks but this does not make matters any easier," said Erin Prelypchan of Manila-based risk consultancy Pacific Strategies & Assessments.

The MILF has been observing a three-year truce with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration after launching a separatist guerrilla campaign in 1978. *Reuters, AFP*

Janjalani back in Basilan, suspect claims

ZAMBOANGA CITY – AFTER MONTHS of hiding in central Mindanao, Abu Sayyaf leader Khadaffy Janjalani is back in Basilan, which is in western Mindanao.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said Hilarion "Ahmed" Santos III, alleged founder of the Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM), a group of Muslim converts with alleged ties to the regional Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, confirmed to the military that Janjalani had returned to Basilan.

Santos, who was arrested here late last month, is the elder brother of Tyrone "Dawud" Santos who, the police and military claimed, was also an RSM member. Dawud was involved in the recent bail controversy that snagged broadcaster Juluis Babao.

Adan said Hilarion admitted during interrogation that he had helped Janjalani escape the military operations in Maguindanao in central Mindanao.

Santos, Adan said, claimed Janjalani, his supporters and a number of Indonesian terrorists took a speedboat across the Moro Gulf and Celebes Sea to get to Basilan.

"We are sounding the call of alertness and vigilance, especially in Basilan, to once more do what is right and reject the presence of this group," Adan said.

The military earlier claimed that Janjalani and his group had fled to central Mindanao to escape the military operations in Basilan. There, the military also launched operations against Janjalani and his group. The operations were conducted with the cooperation of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which had ordered its members not to give sanctuary to the bandit group.

But Adan stressed that Santos' claims were still being verified.

He said it was possible that a policeman, PO3 Sam Andal, who eluded arrest during the raid on Santos' house in Zamboanga City, also helped facilitate Janjalani's return to Basilan.

He said they were also hunting down Andal.

Adan warned Janjalani's sympathizers to stay away from Basilan if they did not want to be caught in the crossfire.

"We don't want noncombatants to become casualties," he said. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

2 men nabbed on ferry charged

TWO BROTHERS ARRESTED ABOARD the Dumaguete-bound SuperFerry 2 last Sunday have been charged with illegal possession of explosives, the Philippine Coast Guard said yesterday, quoting a report from the police in Negros Oriental.

The report said that while a chemical analysis done on the crystalline substance found on one of the two men did show it was an explosive component, police decided to charge Daniel and Editho Bobila in light of the aluminum phosphide, a highly flammable and toxic substance, which they were suspected of having brought aboard the ship.

The charges were filed in the Regional Trial Court of Dumaguete by Dumaguete police chief Sr. Insp. Manuel Hidalgo, the report said.

The brothers were taken into custody after sea marshals learned that Danilo had been spotted emerging from the SuperFerry 2's cargo hold and proceeding to a restricted area. A body search yielded a small amount of a crystalline substance, a handful of nails and a can of sardines.

A subsequent inspection of their luggage yielded a camouflage jacket and a security guard's uniform. A search of the cargo hold revealed four pouches (not cans as the Coast Guard earlier reported) of the chemical labeled "Detia EX-B" that tested positive for aluminum phosphide.

Last Monday, authorities also found in a container van in Dipolog City another two pouches of the same substance found in the SuperFerry 2's cargo hold. The container van in Dipolog was to have been loaded onto the SuperFerry 2 when it docked there. Police were investigating if the two incidents were related. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Cesar Montano named best director in Brussels

By Marinel R. Cruz

"THEY THOUGHT I WAS A ROCK star."

Cesar Montano described the reaction to the crowd that packed the theater during the screening of his movie "Panaghoy sa Suba" (Cry of the River), which won Best Picture at the International Festival of Independent Film in Brussels, Belgium.

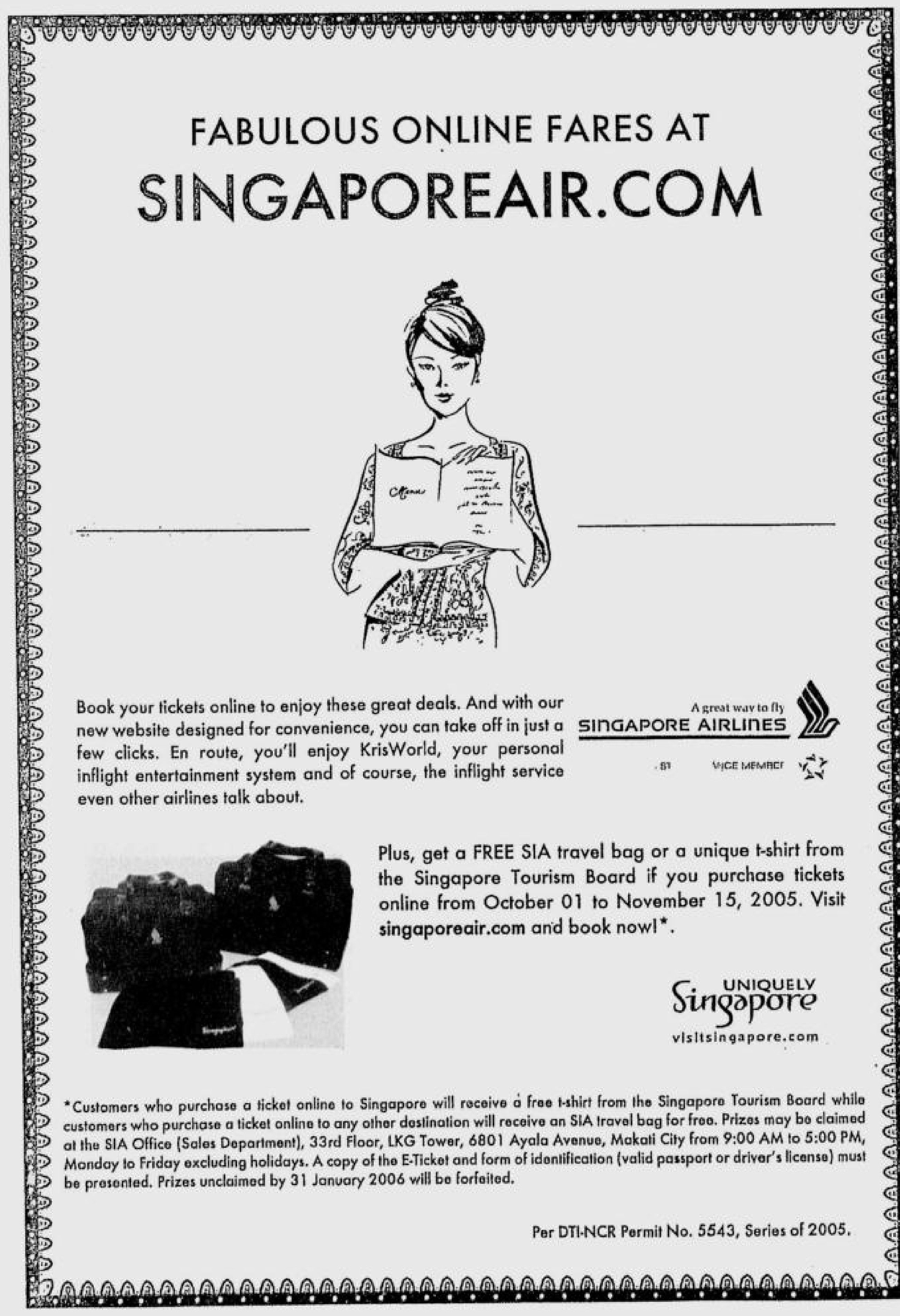
Montano was also named Best Director.

Filipinos made up 70 percent of the audience. Montano said, "Many of them had traveled for hours from neighboring cities. The festival staff told me that only rock stars usually drew such a crowd."

This international film fest seems to have developed a liking for Filipino films. In 2004, Sharon Cuneta and Nora Aunor shared the Best Actress trophy for their films, "Crying Ladies" and "Naglalayag," respectively. Yul Servo bagged the Best Actor award, also for "Naglalayag."

Meanwhile, a low-budget independent film made by a professor at Silliman University in Dumaguete was named Best Foreign Film at the What You See Is What You Get Film Festival in San Francisco, California, last month.

The movie, "Kaibigan," was directed by Jona Lim and featured students in the cast.



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31	Ireland
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36	Jersey
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45	Maldives
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47	Mauritius
48	Mexico
49	Monaco
50	Morocco
51	Netherlands
52	New Zealand
53	Oman
54	Pakistan
55	Palestine
56	Panama
57	Philippines
58	Poland
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Bishops want to work with media

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COUNTRY'S CATHOLIC BISHOPS WANT to set up an institutional dialogue with the media to help the Church in communicating its pastoral role in society.

The plan is to set up a "Bishops-Media Conference" patterned after the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference, said Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The BBC brings together the leaders of the business sector with that of the CBCP, the Church hierarchy that runs the institutional affairs of the Church in the country.

A parallel conference with legislators is also being planned, said Capalla.

"The two groups are considered very important in the country so they should understand each other, their work, to help the people (have) a better life," Capalla told reporters as he prepared to bow out as the leader of the country's 119 bishops.

In an interview, Capalla cited media's important role in influencing public opinion and decision-making.

"Many people today base their decisions on what they read, what they hear or what they see," he said.

"Sometimes what they see is not the truth. And if you base your decisions on the untruth, then your decisions are not so reliable," Capalla said.

Some Church leaders have been critical of media coverage of Church policies and positions, particularly on the current political crisis.

The CBCP has been condemned and criticized for its failure to join calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign amid allegations of election cheating.

But others have defended the Church's position, saying it was in fact pastoral and all-encompassing.

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, a past president of the CBCP, has expressed his disappointment at the way the bishops' advice that the public continue to search for the truth after the failed impeachment of Ms Arroyo was reported.

Capalla observed media's propensity to report mostly what is negative in society.

"The good things are not being known by the people. If they know, we should have given people hope or encouragement," he said.

He noted that the Church has survived the past 2,000 years because of the presence of "holy people" who are beyond structural programs and problems.

"If the bad things that are being done around the world surpass the good things that people do, this world would have collapsed a long time ago," he said.

"Holiness is what makes the Church alive," he said.

Capalla conceded that the Church may have also failed to communicate effectively.

He said the Church's Ministry for Social Communication has not been "very active."

A plan to "coordinate all media resources with media programs" never really got under way with only one meeting held last December, he said.

A TIME TO REFLECT
PART 12

OUR COUNTRY NEEDS LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE

Consumer & Oil Price Watch is calling on ALL our people and political leaders of our country to take on the challenge to rise above political patronage, show greater statesmanship, and work collectively to give hope to our people, most especially the youth and the poor.

WE NEED HOPE

Our people have become helpless. Everyday, 2,700 Filipinos make the supreme sacrifice to have a better future for their families. Around 8 million Filipinos become OFW's, leaving their spouses and children behind to find better paying jobs abroad. With their dollar remittances, OFW's have become the backbone of our economy.

WE NEED SELFLESS LEADERS

It is our leaders' duty to our country and our people to keep us together, to focus on the economy, to create better jobs, and to encourage investments. We appeal to ALL our leaders to heed the call of the Filipino people to set aside bitter and personal partisan politics.

WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR VALUES

After EDSA 1 & 2, we are still where we are. A change to a parliamentary political system will not address our problems. Any form of government will not work without a radical change in our values.

Change must begin with all of us. We must return to the values that once made us a great nation --- integrity, humility, personal sacrifice, hard work, *palabra de honor*, the nation's interest first before our own.

All of us need to search within ourselves and change our values. Our people need to follow leaders who can alter the direction of our country and who can work for economic recovery. Our civil service institutions and non-government organizations should also be strengthened and professionalized for greater transparency.

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German cops arrive to probe compatriot's role in Boracay slays

ILOILO CITY—GERMAN POLICE officials are in the country to gather evidence for the possible prosecution of a German national accused of killing three foreigners, including another German, and a Filipino woman in the island resort of Boracay last year.

Three members of the German Federal Police met with officials of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Iloilo City on Monday before proceeding to Boracay to validate evidence against Uwe Friesl, a German mechanic.

Senior Supt. Jose Jorge Corpuz, CIDG director in Western Visayas, said the three German police officials were here to determine if there was probable cause to file criminal charges against Friesl.

There is no extradition treaty between the Philippines and Ger many but under German laws, a citizen can be prosecuted for committing a crime against a fellow German even if the crime was committed in another country.

The three—Helbert Nilson, the group's liaison officer who also serves as interpreter, Helmut Raster, an expert in crime scene investigation and DNA analysis, and Reinhard Weber, the case agent—will be staying on Boracay until Friday.

Corpuz said the CIDG and other units of the Philippine National Police would assist the German policemen validate the evidence gathered in their investigation.

The Aklan prosecutor's office charged Friesl and three unidentified suspects with four counts of murder for the killing of the German Anton Forstenhausler, Swiss-born vineyard owner and art collector Manfred Schoeni, Hong Kong-based architect John James Cowperthwaite and Forstenhausler's Filipino maid Erma Sarmiento.

The victims were found dead on May 3, 2004, at the Dolce Vita, Forstenhausler's three-story mountaintop mansion on Boracay. The victims all bore multiple stab wounds.

Friesl slipped out of the country early this year and fled to his hometown of Deggendorf, in southeast Bavaria in Germany, despite a hold order and a nationwide manhunt for him.

In an e-mail he earlier sent to the INQUIRER, he said he fled to Germany because the justice system in the Philippines was "too corrupt."

He maintained that he was innocent and said he did not want to be charged with something he did not commit. *Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau*

Slain ex-ATO chief's kin score NBI report

By Nikko Dizon

THE FAMILY OF THE LATE CAPT. Panfilo Villaruel Jr. has denounced the National Bureau of Investigation for its investigation report that practically justified the killing of their father and his aide to end the siege of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Manila Control Tower in 2003.

Yesterday was Villaruel's second death anniversary.

Villaruel's son, Frederick, said their family was surprised to learn that the NBI had filed a homicide case last September against two of the 16-member police assault team before the Pasay City Prosecutor's Office on their behalf. They have yet to see the report.

"After two grueling years of waiting, the NBI could give us nothing more than a haphazardly prepared and awfully biased report," Frederick said yesterday at a press conference at the Don Bosco parish compound in Makati City.

He said their family only learned of the NBI's report in September through a source in the bureau.

They found out that a case had been filed against SWAT team members Police Senior Insp. Ghazali Mamacotao and SPO3 Orlan Abis, after the city prosecutor's office sent them a subpoena.

The Villaruels' lawyer, Rachel Pastores of the Public Interest Law Center, said they filed last Monday a motion to suspend proceedings and to remand the records to the NBI.

Pastores said that the family wanted the NBI to conduct a further investigation that was "faithful to the truth."

She said that the NBI report mentioned "justifying circumstances for the brutal murder that in effect would absolve the suspects," such as the need to protect the tower, which is government property.

"The case should have been murder based on the circumstances," she told the INQUIRER in a separate interview.

The family was also disappointed that the NBI failed to identify the "masterminds" or those who had ordered the assault on Villaruel, a former chief of the Air Transportation Office (ATO), and his aide, Navy Lt. Ricardo Catchillar.

Villaruel's widow, Maritess, urged the NBI not to let itself be influenced by people in power and appealed to the "masterminds" to listen to their conscience.

Both armed, Villaruel and Catchillar took control of the tower in the early hours of Nov. 8, 2003 to decry the alleged massive corruption in the Arroyo administration.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, November 9, 2005
Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran

1st Reading: Ezk 47:1-2,8-9,12
2nd Reading: 1 Cor 3:9-11,16-17
Gospel: John 2:13-22

As the Passover of the Jews was at hand, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the Temple court he found merchants selling oxen, sheep and doves, and money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the Temple court, together with the oxen and sheep. He knocked over the tables of the money-changers, scattering the coins, and ordered the people selling doves, "Take all this away and stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!"

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture: Zeal for your House devours me as a fire.

The Jews then questioned Jesus, "Where are the miraculous signs which give you the right to do this?" And Jesus said, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then replied, "The building of this temple has already taken 46 years, and you will raise it up in three days?"

Actually, Jesus was referring to the temple of his body. Only when he had risen from the dead did his disciples remember these words; then they believed both the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken.

Commentary

So early in the gospel of John Jesus moves radically to cleanse the temple in Jerusalem of its collusion in the economic and political system of the Roman Empire. He is described after forcefully evicting the merchants and money-changers as acting with 'zeal for the House of God that devours him as a fire.' Jesus is laying bare the shallowness of worship that is not based in self-sacrifice—the handing over of one's body, soul, mind and resources to God and the will and law of God, in service to the care of others and the coming of justice and peace. The new temple will be the Body of Christ, the Church—not the building but the people baptized into the Corpus Christi. When we worship in a church, we go forth to kneel and serve the broken Body of the Crucified in our world. Are we in need of cleansing?

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For quality education, double teachers' pay, says DepEd exec

By Alcuin Papa

DOUBLE THEIR WAGES.

The best way to improve the quality of education in the country is to double the salaries of the public school teachers, Education Assistant Secretary Camilo Miguel Montessa told reporters during the ongoing Educators' Congress in Davao City.

Montessa, who is also the DepEd's spokesperson, said the proposed 10 percent yearly wage increase for government employees that was included in the 2006 budget was not enough to make up for inflation.

Neither was the yearly "step increase" in the salaries of all government employees enough for teachers to keep up with the high cost of living, he said.

When China started to reform its education system, teachers were given increases in their wages and housing benefits, Montessa said.

"When teachers get housing and other pay increases, they have more pride in their work. These days, when you say you are a teacher, there is a tendency for people to look down on you," he said.

Teachers' salaries should be doubled or their starting salaries increased from P7,000 to P10,000, he said.

Montessa noted that teachers had not received any significant across-the-board wage increases in the past four years.

"The single best solution to the problems of education is to increase the teachers' wages. The alternatives are unacceptable," he said.

He explained that the cost of retraining and retooling teachers was higher than just doubling their pay.

And because their wages are one of the lowest in the country, "no one wants to be a teacher," Montessa said.

"If you ask the top students what course they would like to take in college, most will answer engineering, nursing or medicine. Hardly will anyone say he or she wants to be a teacher. We really need to determine what our priority is," Montessa said.

He also noted that while there was a large supply of teachers who graduated with education degrees, the quality of these teachers was "suspect."

As a result, Montessa said the DepEd was coordinating with the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) to extend the internship period for education majors. Students can start their internship as early as in their first year, instead of waiting until their third year of college, he said.

"This (extension of internship) can better prepare them for the classroom situation. We will be able to spot those who are committed to the profession and weed out those who are not," he said.

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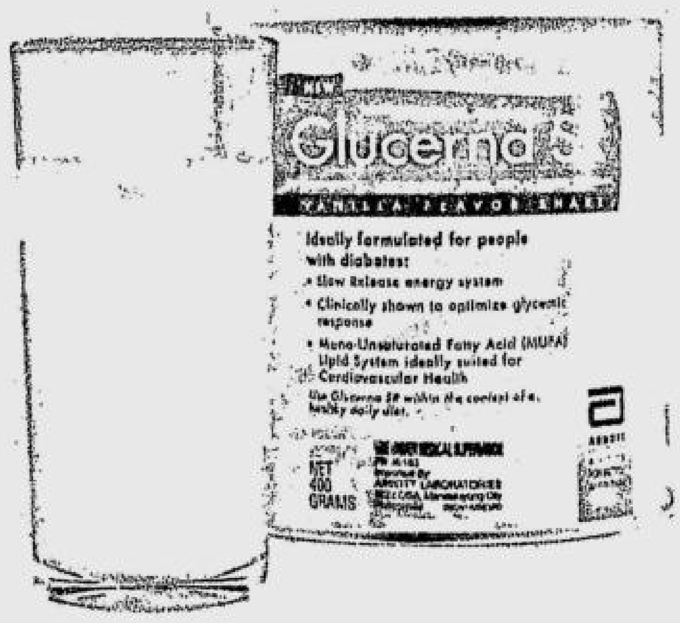
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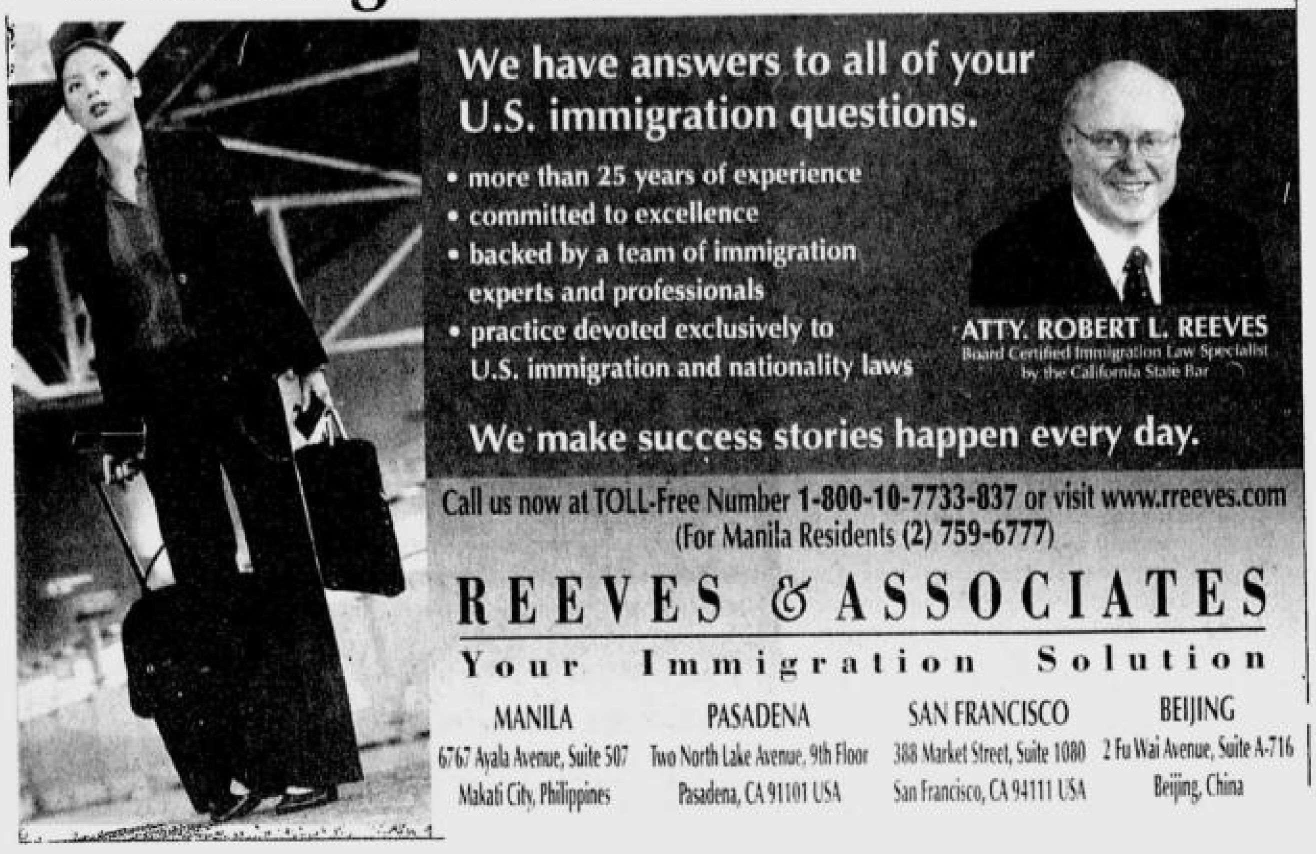

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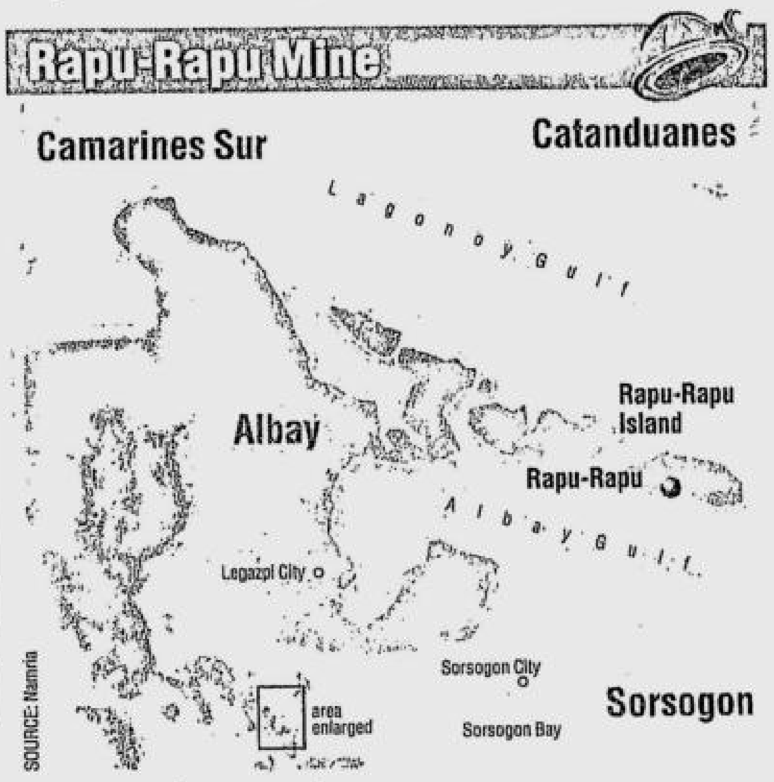
Cyanide spills shut down …



SOURCE: Namria

From page A1

Natural Resources) standards," MGB regional director Rey Juan told the INQUIRER by phone.

"The mine spill has affected marine life in Hollow Stone creek and Ungay creek. There were reports of dead fish and other marine organisms," he said.

Lafayette Philippines said it had not received any suspension order.

"The DENR is having a second look and has not ordered a closure of our mining operations," Lafayette Philippines president Rod Watt said in a phone interview.

Watt said MGB Region 5 was still verifying reports of alleged mine tailings spill.

He said the company had voluntarily shut down operations, but this was according to the planned closure of the gold mining plant in order to shift to base metal ore processing.

Production starts

"This is in preparation for the commencement of our copper and zinc production targeted for the end of November," said Watt.

In Sydney, the Australia-listed Lafayette said it was investigating a second spill of cyanide into the local water system, Reuters' reported.

Lafayette said managing director Andrew McIlwain was leading the company's investigation into how a "small amount" of mine waste containing diluted cyanide was released.

Cyanide is used to segregate gold from ore.

On Oct. 11, a larger amount of cyanide-laced waste was discharged, a Lafayette spokesperson said in Sydney.

"It was definitely an operational procedure that went wrong on the 11th of October and it was something that happened that shouldn't have happened and we do accept full responsibility for that," Reuters quoted the spokesperson as saying.

The project, one of the first new mining ventures approved after 15 years, went into commercial production this year. The company has exported some 4,000 ounces of gold as of October to a refiner in Hong Kong. The project is operated by Lafayette Phil. Inc. with Lafayette NL of Australia, LG Collins and KORES of South Korea. It produces gold, silver, copper and zinc.

Rapu-Rapu is expected to yield around 50,000 ounces of gold annually, 600,000 ounces of silver, 10,000 metric tons of copper concentrate and 14,000 metric tons of zinc concentrate, according to the MGB.

Juan said that although Lafayette had voluntarily stopped its operations in the gold milling plant since the second mine spill, when the tailings pond overflowed, the government would like to ensure that corrective measures were in place before operations resumed.

Company effort recognized

"We recognize the effort of the company, but we're going to issue the order that it will remain suspended until it complies with the requirements," Juan said. "We would like to be assured that when they open, the dam will be still be okay for the duration of the project."

Environment Undersecretary Deinrado Dimalibot said: "I have recommended that Lafayette stop operations indefinitely… The spill incidents are small but we thought they needed a more definite remediation plan."

The requirements indicated in the order being prepared include Lafayette's submission of a geotechnical evaluation of the integrity of the dam that holds the mine tailings.

The geotechnical report from Lafayette would be validated by an independent body from the academe and the mining industry.

The suspension order is based on a joint investigation by the MGB and the Environmental Management Bureau, and confirmed by the Mine Rehabilitation Fund committee composed of the provincial governor, DENR regional director, EMB, MGB, Lafayette and a non-government organization.

Standard for cyanide

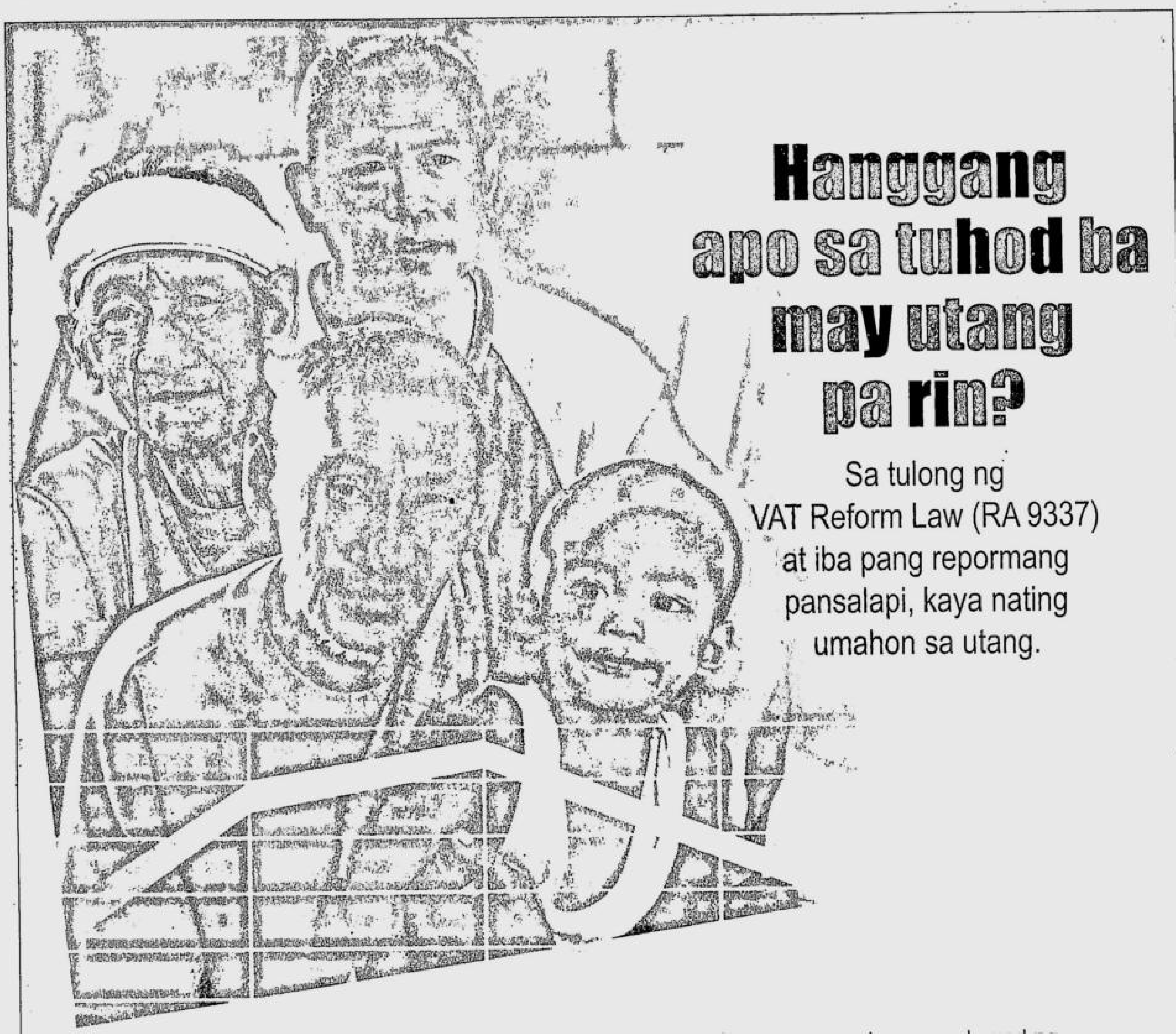
The DENR standard for cyanide in water is .05 ppm. Tests done by the EMB showed cyanide level in the water from the second mine spill was at .1 ppm.

The first spill on Oct. 11 came from the events pond, where a supposedly defective valve and pump channeled the mine tailings instead of to the tailings pond. The events pond is an area designated to catch mine waste in case the tailings pond overflows. The second spill on Oct. 31 was purportedly caused by the overflow of the tailings pond due to heavy rains.

"They should foresee the volume that would be accommodated by the dam from the tailings as well as the rain," Juan said.

Officials said Lafayette was fined more than P300,000 for the spill on Oct. 11 that resulted in a fish kill reported by surrounding communities.

The Environmental Management Bureau is still calculating the penalty for the second spill.



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Patuloy rin ang mga 'lifestyle check' at mga programang panlaban sa kurakot sa pamahalaan. Hahabulin rin ang mga tax evaders at smugglers para pangalagaan ang kaban ng bayan.

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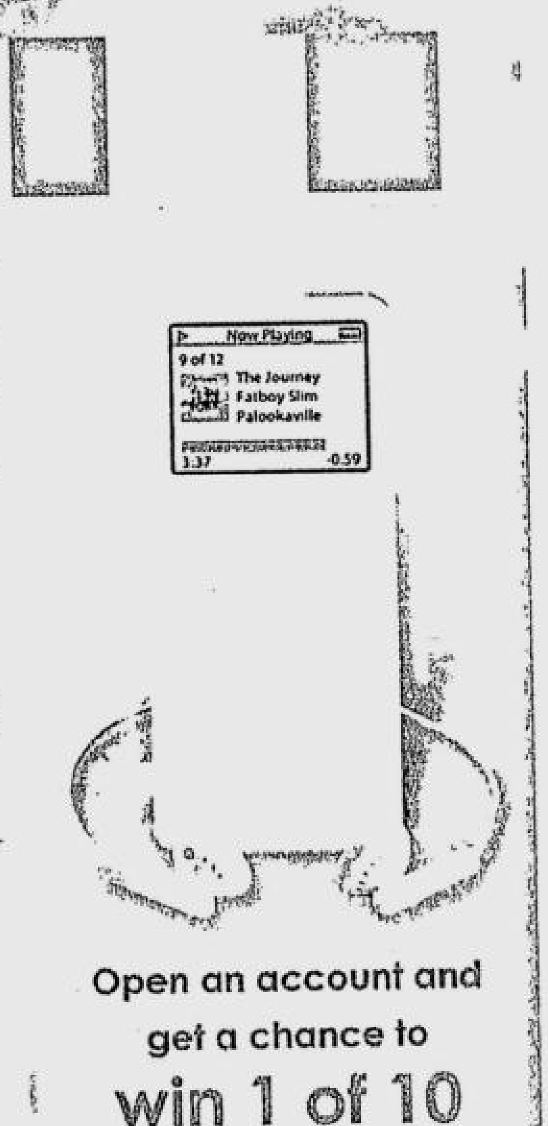

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Subpoenas served: 6 GIs accused of gang rape

From page A1

and acting DFA Secretary Rafael Seguis handed over the summons along with copies of the formal complaint to the US Embassy's acting Deputy Chief of Mission Scott Bellard and press attaché Matthew Lussenhop.

In court Nov. 23, 29

The subpoenas—one for each of the respondents—ordered them to appear before Jalandoni on Nov. 23 and 29 at 2:30 p.m. for the preliminary investigation, and gave them 10 days from the time of receipt to file counter-affidavits.

Named in the case were Chad Carpenter, Keith Silkwood, Corey Burris, Daniel Smith, Albert Lara and Dominic Suplantis, ostensibly the unidentified person in the complaint.

The US Embassy has insisted five servicemen were implicated in the alleged rape but that six US Marines who had participated in the recent RP-US counterterrorism exercises had remained behind after their ships departed last week. The accused were from the aircraft carrier USS Essex.

"At this point in time, we are not asking for custody because that is part of the agreement (that) during preliminary investigation the US Embassy can have custody," Zuño told reporters.

"(When) we find sufficient evidence against the accused and the court issues a warrant of arrest, then that will be the time we can demand custody of the accused," he said.

Zuño clarified that it was still up to the court to grant custody to local authorities. "But normally the rule is that they should be jailed in the city jail."

His remarks indicated the intention of the Philippine side to test the jurisdiction provisions of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, suggesting a tough legal battle between the two countries over the issue of custody alone.

Emerging from the closed-door meeting with Zuño and Seguis, Bellard said "We will live up to all the terms of the VFA."

Bellard maintained that "until proven guilty," the accused will remain in US custody and that the embassy will "make them available" to local judicial proceedings.

One-year limitation

"We are required to cooperate and we will cooperate," he replied, when pressed whether the suspects would appear before the Olongapo City prosecutor on the dates set by the subpoena.

Zuño said the DOJ has 60 days to complete the preliminary investigation. Under the VFA, the government has one year to wrap up the case and the countdown began with the formal acceptance by the US Embassy of the subpoenas.

Assistant City Prosecutor Raymond Viray told reporters in Olongapo there were only three situations when the presence of the suspects was mandatory: During arraignment, for identification purposes and during the promulgation of judgment.

While the court cannot impose a penalty against the Americans in case they fail to appear in the preliminary investigation, they would be considered to have waived their right to be heard and file evidence in their favor and counteraffidavits, Jalandoni said.

Did he or didn't he?

He also clarified that his office had not received any retraction of statement from Soriano, the driver of the van. "He has to submit his statement to us before we can consider it as part of the record," the prosecutor said.

"But assuming that he has retracted, we will evaluate if he has basis, and we will see if there was force or intimidation," he said.

In rape cases, he said, the testimony of the victim alone, if credible, was enough to produce a conviction.

Asked what would happen if the victim retracted her statement, Jalandoni said "for practical purposes, (the case) would be very hard" to pursue. The victim has been described as a daughter of an Army soldier. A college graduate from Zamboanga City, she had gone to Olongapo to accompany her stepsister who was meeting her boyfriend.

Jalandoni and Viray said Soriano, the vital witness in the case, could avail of the DOJ's witness protection program if there were threats on his life.

As of Tuesday, Soriano had not yet sought the protection of the government, indicating that he was still out of harm's way, they said.

Jalandoni said Soriano was crucial to the resolution of the case because "without his testimony, nobody could corroborate and describe the conspiracy, if there is any, by the soldiers."

Soriano's testimony was important, he added, because the victim's testimony had "no specificity of action by the soldiers."

In his two-page sworn statement, Soriano attested to having witnessed a "gang rape" inside the Starex van.

Neither Jalandoni nor Viray knew of Soriano's whereabouts following the incident.

Cooperative

Retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy administrator, said the agency's investigators found him to be a "cooperative" witness and saw no reason to hold him.

The other witness who executed an affidavit was Ma. Fe Castro, 46. She was with seven people, among them Joseph Khonghun (brother of Subic Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun) who, at 11:50 p.m. on Nov. 1, saw the servicemen unload the woman at a parking lot fronting the Alava Pier where the USS Essex was docked.

The rape incident has sparked daily anti-American protests and calls in the Senate and the House for a review or abrogation of the VFA.

With the reported retraction of the driver's testimony, some senators suspect that the case against the American servicemen will be settled for money.

"I can think of the thing that caused Judas to betray our Lord and I sense it's more than 30 pieces of silver," said Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Pimentel said the victim could also be "in danger of retracting" and going for an out-of-court settlement of the case. "I'm talking in general about rape cases, even those that I knew of were usually settled by monetary considerations," Pimentel said.

Senators Manuel Villar and Joker Arroyo echoed Pimentel's fear.

"I think (the driver) was fixed," Villar said.

"So what's new?" Arroyo said of the reported recantation. "That's the tactic of lawyers."

But he said it could have been done only by Filipino lawyers.

"You heard the US Embassy officials saying they are going to hire Filipino lawyers. So it's a pity Filipino lawyers are going to be merely fixers," Arroyo said.

"I cannot use a stronger word—to facilitate the testimonies in such a way that will be favorable to the whole party," Arroyo said, adding the intent of the recantation was to present modified testimony that would pave the way for the dismissal of the case.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago said the driver showed indications that he would be a witness for the defense. She said if Soriano executes an affidavit recanting his previous one, he could be charged with perjury.

Secret witness to testify at Citizens Congress

From page A1

now because of a matter of security," Capulong told the INQUIRER after the session wound up before 1 p.m.

Capulong had requested that the "presidium" chaired by former Vice President Teofisto Guingona allow the witness to be presented in the session scheduled this morning.

"There will be four to five witnesses in the charge of electoral fraud, and all of them can be named except for this one," he said.

He identified the other witnesses as Frank Chavez, a former solicitor general, and Danilo Ramos, chair of the militant farmers group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, who, he said, would both testify on the P728-million fertilizer fund that was allegedly diverted to Ms Arroyo's campaign kitty in 2004.

Disruption

Another witness is Connie Regalado, head of the migrant workers group Migrante, who will testify on the alleged use of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration funds for the distribution of Philhealth cards during the campaign period, he said.

Members of Anad loudly accused the CCTA of being a "communist" instrument.

They started shouting while UP Prof. Maria Serena Diokno was defining the CCTA as a transparent fact-finding body that would accept contrary views and evidence for its consideration.

They continued shouting and ignored requests of the organizers for them to occupy the seats reserved for the President's representatives, prompting marshals to lead them away.

As the Anad members were being led out, incensed congress delegates threw punches at them.

The presidium has called for an investigation of the incident.

Chance to answer

What took up much of the time was the speeches of House Minority Floor Leader Francis Escudero and Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano outlining the charges against Ms Arroyo and the evidence that could have been used to back the impeachment complaint.

"We're here to give President Arroyo a chance to answer the charges against her. This is a chance that was not given Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada," Escudero said.

"It's a good thing President Arroyo or [Environment Secretary Michael] Defensor sent a representative," he said.

Defensor sent lawyer Cybill Uytiepo to observe the proceedings and come up with a report that will serve as basis of whether he will attend the next sessions.

Asked about Uytiepo's report, Defensor said: "It would seem that all presentations were to strengthen their already decided position—that the President cheated. [Were the proceedings] objective? I don't think [so]."

He said he might not show up if the sessions would continue the way they started yesterday.

"The problem with this fact-finding is that it has become a media presentation. They should have studied election laws and exit polls, and analyzed [election returns]," he said.

No trial

During the session, Capulong said there would be no trial of Ms Arroyo.

"After a long process, the convenors and the steering committee as well as the presidium have clarified that the CCTA will not conduct a trial. It will not prosecute [Ms Arroyo]," he said, adding:

"And so this morning, I rise not to indict [her but] to ask her simple questions—questions which she continues to ignore and the answers to which she continues to suppress with all the awesome powers and resources at her command."

Capulong's questions covered the three main charges in the amended impeachment complaint that was dismissed on "procedural and technical grounds."

In sum, Capulong asked Ms Arroyo about her role in the alleged poll fraud in 2004, the cover-up of the "Hello, Garci" scandal, graft and corruption, and human rights violations against militants, including assassinations, forced disappearances and torture.

'Illegal proceeding'

Malacañang apparently could not be bothered.

"They can go ahead [with their proceedings], but we have expressed our stand on this," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters. "We have said that this is an illegal proceeding."

Bunye reiterated that the Palace viewed the CCTA as a "kangaroo court."

He also declined to comment on the incident involving supporters of the President, saying: "Let's leave the parties affected to file their case."

Like Bunye, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the activity of the CCTA was illegal.

"As far as I'm concerned, what they're doing is not legal. What is the basis of swearing in people to testify?" he told reporters.

Gonzalez said that while the Constitution allowed the expression of legitimate concerns and aspirations, this should be done not only through peaceful but also legal means.

He said that if the CCTA would tackle the alleged cheating in the 2004 elections, the Presidential Electoral Tribunal might cite its convenors for contempt.

Monitor seditious statements

The tribunal is still hearing an election protest filed by ex-Sen. Loren Legarda against Vice President Noli de Castro.

Gonzalez said there were "so many provisions" in the Revised Penal Code that could be thrown at Guingona and his associates.

"I don't want to enumerate them; anyway, we will decide later if necessary," Gonzalez said, adding that the government would monitor the proceedings to see if laws were being violated.

He said the Department of Justice would analyze speeches and statements made during the sessions and determine if these could qualify as sedition.

"We cannot tolerate people running around making seditious statements left and right," he said.

But he added, apparently in reference to the 77-year-old Guingona: "Some people are too old to be sent to jail."

Let them be

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao, however, said the PNP would leave the CCTA alone.

"They're entitled to their own opinions. This is a free country," said Lomibao. "If it does not border on sedition, if it does not border on crimes against public order, then let them do what they want." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Jerome Aning and Luige A. del Puerto*

Enrile's firm has legal right to log in Samar, says DENR

From page A1

The studies on the need to preserve the forests and their threatened flora and fauna may be valuable but they were not related to the legal issue of whether Enrile's San Jose Timber Corp. can log in Samar, said Environment Assistant Secretary for Legal Fidel Exconde Jr.

"The question was: Is there anything that would stop the SJTC from logging in its TLA (timber licensing agreement) area? On paper, there is nothing; no document bans them from logging," Exconde said.

Exconde gave the background behind the disputed order as environment and church groups accepted the challenge of Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor to take to court their arguments against logging inside the Samar Island Nature Park (SINP).

Jose Mabulay Jr., former president of the Samar Island Biodiversity Foundation, said three Catholic dioceses, along with the SIBF, were finalizing a motion to block the operations of SJTC.

No weight

The order issued by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor gives the SJTC the right to harvest timber in a 95,770-ha area right in the heart of the 330,000-ha Samar Island Nature Park (SINP).

Exconde said he did not give weight to the government's agreement with the United Nations Development Fund on a $12.8-million biodiversity project and recent studies on Samar's high ecological value.

Exconde said he reviewed only the documents that were directly connected with the logging moratorium issued in 1989 by then environment chief Fulgencio Factoran Jr.

"The other studies are valuable but they are legally not related to the issue. They were mostly technical, unlike the study conducted during the moratorium. Anything it says is in reply to the moratorium, which is the issue," Exconde said in an interview.

He said the documents he studied and made as the legal basis for the DENR decision were the 1989 moratorium, the study team's report dated April 12, 1989, saying temporary logging could be allowed in Samar, the position paper of the DENR regional director, a report of the multisectoral team, including church and environment groups, memos related to the moratorium, and the proclamation creating the SINP.

A privilege

Exconde said the proclamation of 333,000 hectares of Samar Island as a nature park could not be considered a supervening event because it respected prior rights to the area.

Environmentalists argued that Enrile's logging concession was not a right but a privilege granted by the government, as Supreme Court decisions have stated.

Exconde, citing other court decisions, said this decision was "not a blanket thing" that covered all logging concessions.

"A perfected mining claim is a vested right, and that is just a claim. How much more a logging contract? It is a source of property rights which cannot be revoked without due course of the law," Exconde said.

8 months or 1 month?

Defensor said that even if the SJTC's timber license agreement was only a privilege, the government was duty bound to respect the privileges granted private entities.

Defensor said the DENR studied Enrile's request for eight months. A check with the DENR, however, showed that Enrile formally wrote the DENR seeking the lifting of the moratorium only on July 11.

Exconde said the letter was referred to his office for decision in July. It took him a month to study the case.

Protest caravan

Defensor signed the order granting Enrile's request and extending the SJTC's TLA by 16 years on Aug. 16.

The DENR's decision has sparked protests in Samar, uniting various groups against logging. A protest caravan is being prepared by islanders.

Sen. Jamby Madrigal denounced the Defensor order.

"We should not trade the patrimony of the Filipino people for political favors and it blatantly looks like this," said Madrigal, a member of the Senate committee on environment.

Madrigal, whose family had engaged in logging and mining in the past, alleged that Defensor's order was a "quid pro quo" for Enrile's vote during Defensor's confirmation hearings before the Commission on Appointments.

Enrile has rejected the allegation.

No politics here

"This has nothing to do with politics," he said in an interview, stressing that the order was the justice his firm had been seeking after the Aquino administration "arbitrarily" suspended its logging operations in 1989.

Enrile has refused to be drawn into a debate with Samareños, environmentalists and churchmen who have vowed to oppose his logging firm's operations.

"Let them do whatever they want. I would not debate with them. Each one of us stands on a legal position. Let it remain that way," he said.

Madrigal said the Defensor order would be "a death knell" for Samar's natural resources.

'A sacrilege'

"Let's not forget that when you talk of logging and mining, only the rich get rich, and the poor are affected and their lives are sacrificed. I think this is a sacrilege," she said.

SJTC obtained its timber licensing agreement from the environment department in 1967 and renewed it in 1982 for another 25 years.

But in February 1989, Factoran suspended all logging operations in Samar, citing the need to reassess its forest resources and the rate of forest denudation.

Doronila pulls out as envoy-nominee to European Union

From page A1

der consideration by the Commission on Appointments, Doronila went on leave to avoid conflict of interest situation. He is currently a visiting fellow at the Australian National University, department of political and social change, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies.

Following is Doronila's statement to the INQUIRER:

"I have withdrawn my nomination as ambassador to Belgium after deferment of its confirmation in the Commission on Appointments.

"During the hearings in the commission, it became clear to me that my views on priorities of issues of Philippine-EU relations facing the embassy were divergent from those manifested by some members of the commission.

"In my review of the briefing papers on RP-EU relations, I was more concerned with the larger issues of trade patterns, and political and security issues concerning common market security and political policies of the EU than with the instant reproduction of specific trade volume statistics and perceived jurisdictional overlaps between the mission in Brussels and our embassies in some EU member countries—details which seemed to have obsessed some commission members.

"This obsession and nit-picking on details tended to give a myopic view of the larger picture of issues concerning our relations with EU. The Union is more than just a large economic bloc which offers opportunities for trade expansion.

"Enlargement [from 15 to 25] members represents a huge step by Europe to assert a stronger role as a world power as a counterpart to United States hegemony. It offers us opportunities to engage Europe in our search of a balanced and flexible foreign policy.

"At the hearing of the commission on Aug. 31, I submitted an opening statement that outlined my vision of the political and economic challenges facing the mission in Brussels in the context of the EU's enlargement. Unfortunately, I was not given a chance to read the statement.

"My withdrawal terminates my leave of absence from my journalistic duties. While the nomination was under consideration by the commission, I took a leave during which I abstained from writing my columns in the INQUIRER to avoid conflict of interest situations. Withdrawal has freed me to resume writing as an independent newspaperman—unhampered by any consideration of promoting self-interest."

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Is it right for GMA to use any means to remain in power?

So far, she has trashed the impeachment, declared CPR, enforced EO 464, threatened emergency powers or martial law, initiated hearings versus Gudani & Balutan, accused Cory and Drilon of a coup plot and continues to harass Bro. Eddie.

Is it right for her to use government positions and favors as rewards for unconditional loyalty to her?

A long-standing moratorium on logging in protected areas of Samar was recently lifted in favor of a company closely associated with a politician. Post-dated checks have been issued to politicians for "scholarships". Military promotions, ambassadorships and other appointments, plum contracts, pork barrel have been awarded to supporters and sycophants. On the other hand, civil servants with sterling performance records were summarily relieved of their posts for not blindly doing her bidding.

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The alternative may be more violent upheaval.

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To give the middle forces a venue and a voice to vent their outrage at the disgraceful conduct of the highest official of the land.

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The Black and White Movement is committed to legal, constitutional, and non-violent solutions. These will be implemented peaceably, democratically with the least disruption to our fragile economy.

Our prescription:
1) A massive, nationwide signature campaign for the non-violent removal of GMA from office.
2) Ask the VP to take over as the Turnaround President who will call for a special election in 2007 after revamping the Comelec.
3) If the VP is unwilling, he must resign as well. It then becomes necessary for the Senate President to call for Special Elections according to the Constitution.

If you answered yes to any of these questions,
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Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Australia foils 'terror' attack; 17 arrested

SYDNEY—AUSTRALIAN POLICE SAID THEY FOILED A "LARGE-scale terrorist attack" and charged a radical Islamic cleric with leading a terror group Tuesday after raids in which a militant suspect was shot and injured and 15 others were arrested.

The raids in Melbourne and Sydney involving more than 450 heavily-armed officers backed by helicopters came less than a week after Prime Minister John Howard said he had credible information an attack was being planned.

Prosecutors said chemicals seized in the raids were similar to those used in July's London bombings. They said the suspects were committed to holy war, prepared to kill Australians and had discussed mounting suicide bombings.

"I am satisfied that we have disrupted what I would regard as the final stages of a large-scale terrorist attack, or the launch of a terrorist attack, in Australia," said New South Wales police commissioner Ken Moroney.

Police arrested seven people in Sydney and nine in Melbourne as they swooped on more than 20 homes in the country's largest counterterrorist action after a 16-month investigation.

One of the Sydney suspects was shot in the neck and critically injured after he fired at police who ordered him to stop as he walked along a suburban street, police said.

Among those arrested in Melbourne was Algerian-born cleric Abu Bakr. Prosecutors said he was the leader of both the Sydney and Melbourne groups, which were "committed to the cause of violent jihad" or holy war.

The 45-year-old cleric, who has previously praised al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden as "a great man," was charged with directing activities of a "terrorist organization" while the other Melbourne suspects were charged with membership of the organization.

Prosecutors allege one of the men, named in court as Abdul Amahi, discussed becoming a suicide bomber because he wanted revenge on "infidels" for the war in Iraq, where Australia has sent troops.

The Sydney suspects were charged with preparing to manufacture explosives in preparation for a terrorist act. All those charged in both cities were refused bail.

The authorities did not detail any targets selected by the group but have said in recent months that suspects had carried out surveillance on the Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge, railway stations and the Melbourne stock exchange.

Victoria state police commissioner Christine Nixon said the alleged plot did not involve next year's Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

New South Wales police chief Moroney said investigations into the arrested men's associates were ongoing, while federal police said they were examining computers seized during the raids for any evidence of links to international militant groups.

The arrests came days after the government passed an urgent amendment to antiterrorism laws making it easier for police to prosecute suspects involved in the early stages of planning attacks.

The amendment was passed in response to Howard's warning of a credible threat of attack, which critics had suggested was scaremongering to distract attention from his conservative government's political problems.

Howard, a close ally of US President George W. Bush who contributed troops to the invasions of both Afghanistan and Iraq, said Tuesday he would never exploit security issues for his own political ends.

"When it comes to the safety of the Australian people and the security of this country, there is no room for political manipulation," he told reporters.

Australia has not been attacked on its own soil in recent years but Australian interests have been targeted elsewhere.

A suicide bomber hit the Australian Embassy in Jakarta last year, and dozens of Australians were killed in attacks on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in 2002 and earlier this year. *AFP*

Economic cost of bird flu estimated at $800B

GENEVA—A FLU PANDEMIC LASTing a year could cost the global economy up to $800 billion, the World Bank said on Monday, as China asked for international help to double check whether bird flu had killed a 12-year-old girl.

The World Bank set out the possible financial cost at the start of a three-day meeting in Geneva at which hundreds of experts are drawing up a strategy to prevent bird flu from developing into a pandemic in which millions could die.

The H5N1 strain of avian influenza is known to have killed 63 people in four Asian countries and led to the culling of 150 million birds worldwide. It has recently spread to eastern Europe and is expected to move into the Middle East and Africa.

In a report presented in Geneva, the World Bank said a two percent fall in global GDP during an influenza pandemic—like that caused by SARS in East Asia during the second quarter of 2003—would represent a loss of about $200 billion in output in one quarter or $800 billion over a year.

The World Bank report, obtained by Reuters, said a previous study on flu pandemics had suggested that any new outbreak could cause between 100,000 and 200,000 human deaths in the United States alone, which it said would translate into economic losses for the country of between $100 billion and $200 billion.

"We are broadly worried about trade in a globalized world, but two industries that would be particularly hit are tourism and agriculture," said Jim Adams, a senior World Bank official.

The World Bank will launch an appeal for a $1-billion package at the conference, half of it to be provided through its grants or interest-free loans and half through a trust fund financed by donors, Adams said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed on Monday that China had asked it to probe a death which could be linked to bird flu.

China has invited WHO experts to investigate three suspicious cases of pneumonia in the southern province of Hunan, the site of one of a number of recent outbreaks of avian flu in birds.

Tests on the three did not show the presence of H5N1, but the virus could not be ruled out because the three lived close to the site of an outbreak, the official Xinhua news agency said.

One of the pneumonia patients, a 12-year-old girl, died.

Vietnam on Tuesday confirmed its 42nd human death from bird flu. Thirteen have died in Thailand and four in Cambodia. *Reuters*

Japan asks Chilean gov't to treat Fujimori well

TOKYO—JAPAN SAID Tuesday it had asked Chile for "appropriate treatment" of former Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori, who enjoys Japanese nationality, after the fugitive leader was arrested in Santiago.

Fujimori had enjoyed a safe haven in Tokyo for five years until Sunday when he flew unannounced to Chile as part of his bid to return to power in Peru, which has a warrant out for his arrest.

Japanese Ambassador to Santiago Hajime Ogawa met Chilean Foreign Minister Ignacio Walker to "inquire about the status of the case" involving Fujimori, said a Japanese foreign ministry official.

"It was a routine request made when a Japanese national is apprehended," the official said. "The ambassador asked that he be given appropriate treatment and due process of law."

Fujimori, 67, is the son of Japanese immigrants and fled to Tokyo in 2000 to escape a corruption scandal, faxing his resignation as president from a Tokyo hotel. Japan granted him nationality and refused to extradite him to Peru.

He flew to Chile in a private plane and was arrested within hours as Chile looks at an arrest warrant from Peru, which wants to try him on charges of state-ordered killings and corruption during his decade in power.

Japan's Kyodo News, citing foreign ministry sources, said Fujimori is believed to have entered Chile on a Peruvian passport, which was issued to him this summer by the Peruvian Embassy in Tokyo.

US Ambassador to Lima James Curtis said Monday Fujimori managed to stop over in the United States and likely used another name, because he did not have a visa and there were alerts to catch him. *AFP*

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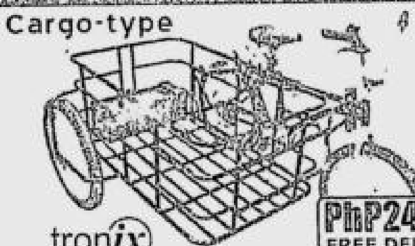

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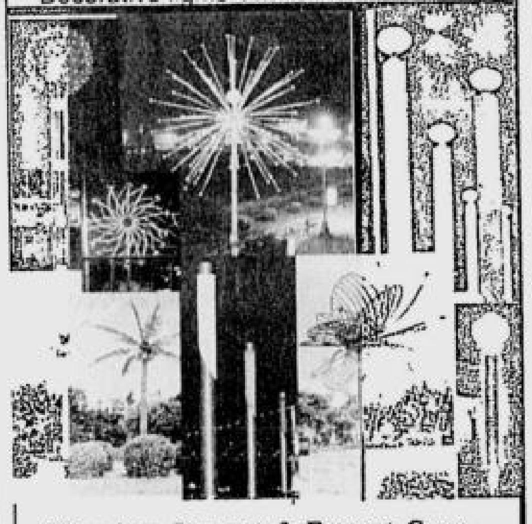

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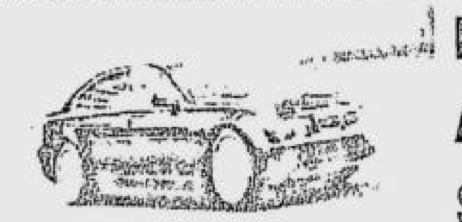

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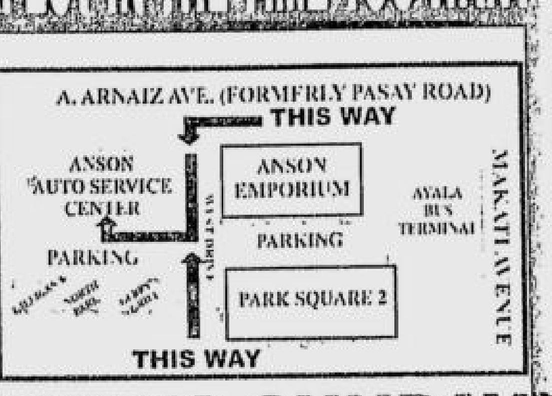

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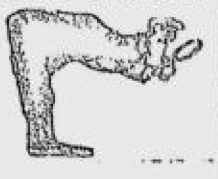

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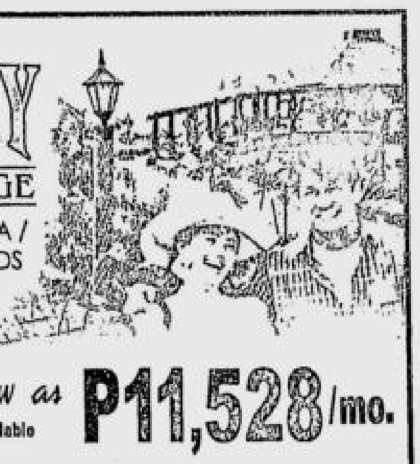

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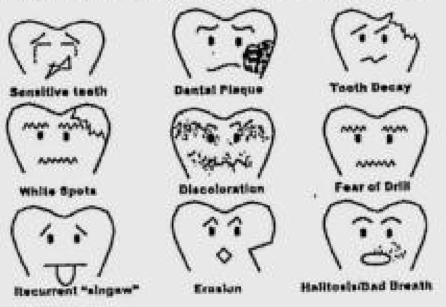

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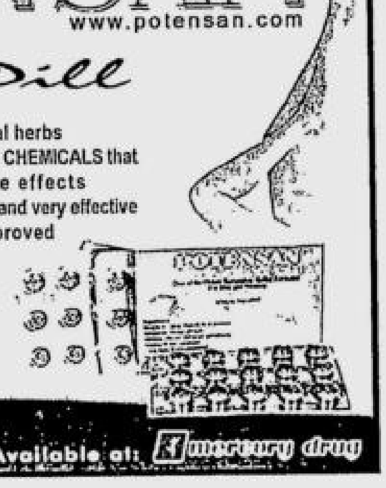

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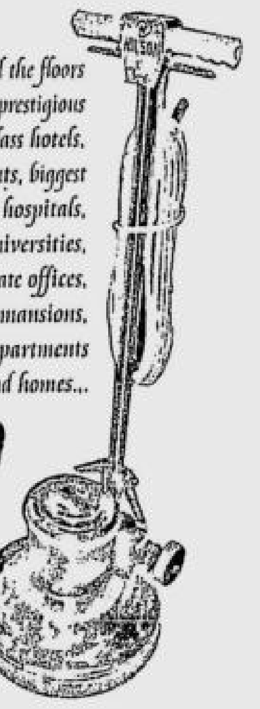

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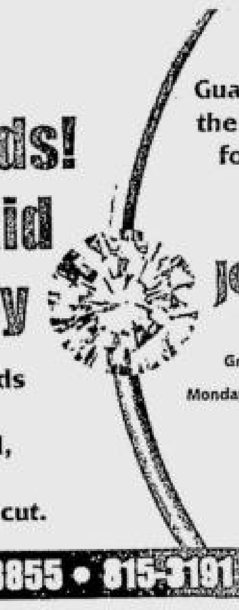

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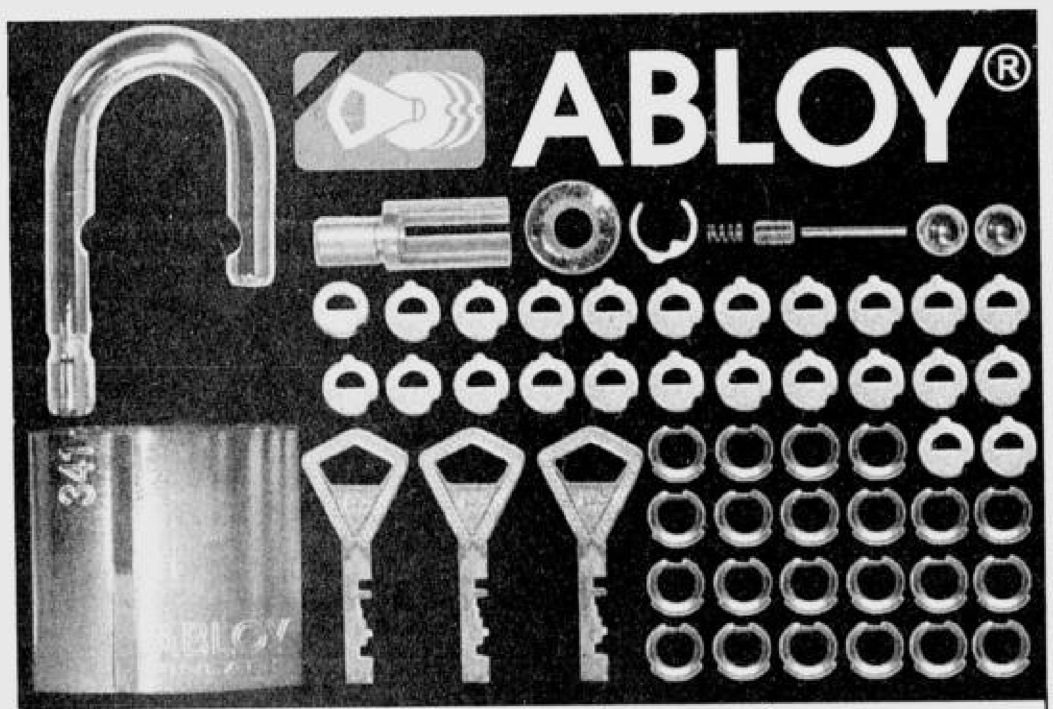

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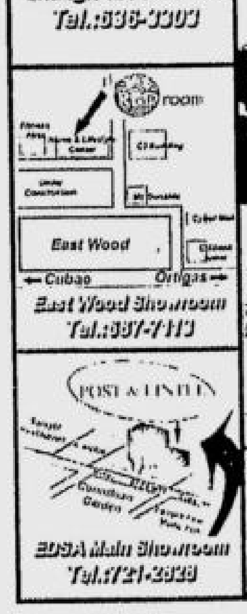

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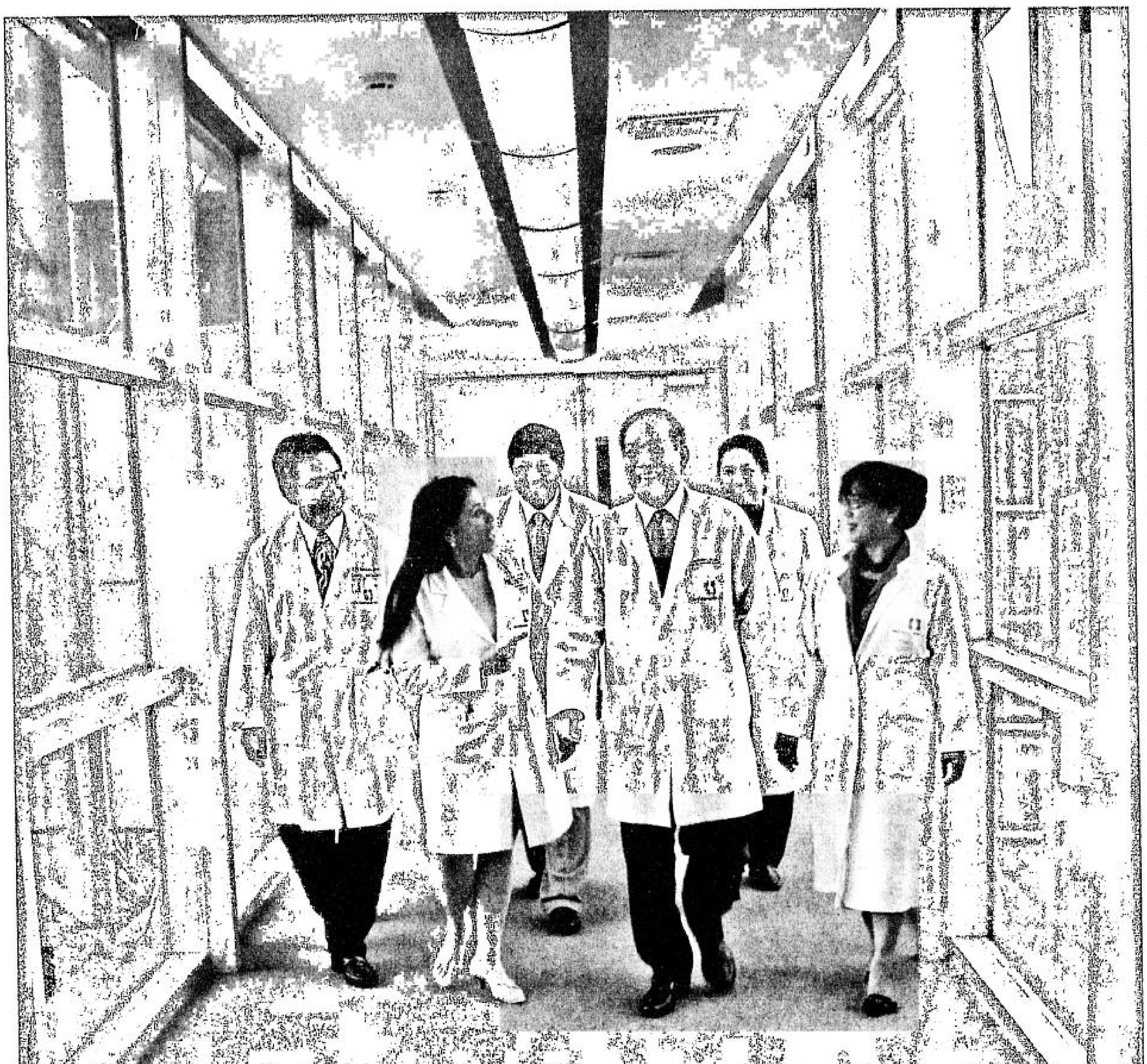

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French go
curfews to

PARIS—PRESIDENT JACQUES Chirac prepared to convene an emergency cabinet meeting Tuesday to empower the authorities to clamp down curfews on lawless suburbs after rioters rampaged across France for the 12th straight night.

Police reported 330 arrests and said the youths burned 1,173 vehicles. Twelve officers were lightly injured and some reported being fired at, but not hit, with buckshot.

The unrest is the worst the country has experienced since student revolts in 1968.

Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said late Monday he was invoking a 60-year-old law first brought in as an unsuccessful attempt to quell an insurrection in Algeria, at a time when the north African country was a French colony.

Villepin, speaking on national television, said regional authorities would be given the power to impose curfews "where necessary." The measure—effectively a state of emergency for areas around cities and towns—would ban night time movements of people and vehicles and allow police to set up roadblocks around certain zones.

French media Tuesday were skeptical that curfews would stop the unrest.

The financial daily La Tribune said the measures were necessary but "they are not—by a long shot—sufficient." The left-wing daily Liberation called Chirac's rule "a tragic farce" for resorting to a law created in 1955 to cope with a full-fledge

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South Asia quake t

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—The estimated death toll in South Asia's huge earthquake jumped Tuesday to 87,350 after a new count of the dead in Pakistan, while UN workers raced the Himalayan winter to bring shelter to 350,000 of the neediest survivors one month after the disaster.

The toll in Pakistan jumped to 86,000—or 13,000 higher than the government's official toll so far—under a broad assessment by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank, working with local governments and aid agencies, Pakistani Finance Ministry official Iqbal Ahmed Khan said Tuesday.

India has reported 1,350 deaths in its territory.

Khan said the new tally for Pakistan came after more bodies were recovered from debris in the quake zone and assessment teams reached areas previously inaccessible due to landslides unleashed by the magnitude-7.6 quake and its hundreds of aftershocks.

"This is their assessment, which we think is fair enough," Khan said. "They had various teams in the field. This is feedback from the field."

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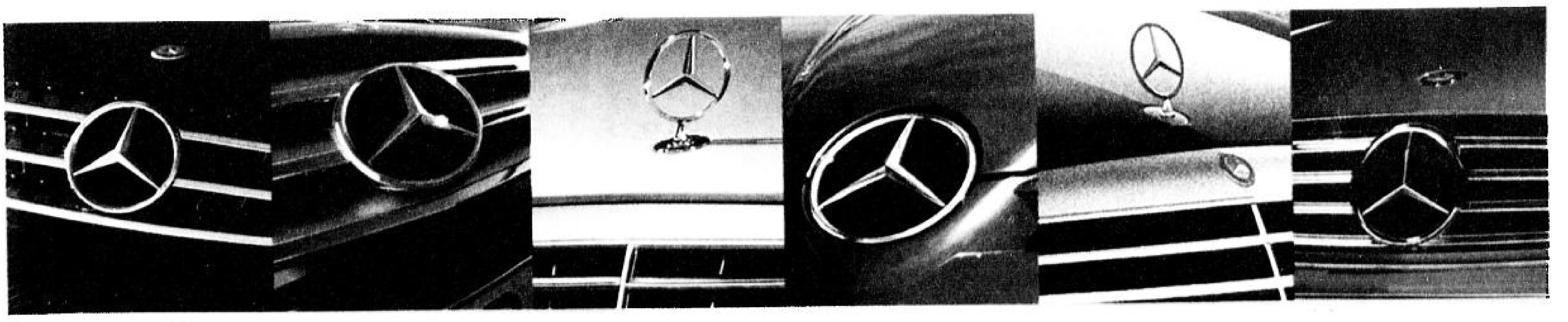
WORLD

4 Americans killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD—A suicide bomber blew up his vehicle at checkpoint south of Baghdad and killed four America soldiers, the military said. The US command also announced five soldiers from an elite unit were charged with kicking and punching Iraqi detainees. The suicid attack Monday came as US and Iraqi troops battled al Qaida-led militants for a third day in Husaybah, a tow on the Syrian border that the military describes as a



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southeast of the French capital, 15 people were hospitalized with breathing problems after a blaze in a cellar forced them to evacuate a building.

Northeast of Paris in Seine-Saint-Denis, the region where the trouble began, the violence simmered on but authorities said the situation was calmer than on previous nights, with three times fewer calls made to the fire services.

Youths predominantly from France's large Arab-Muslim minority have rampaged through out-of-town neighborhoods since Oct. 27, torching cars, businesses and public buildings and attacking police officers.

The unrest, sparked by the accidental deaths of two teenagers of African origin in an electrical substation in a northern Paris suburb, set off a chain of copycat rioting by disaffected youths complaining of poverty and discrimination.

The effective state of emergency to be decreed can last for 12 days, beyond which it can only continue after a parliamentary vote. The last time it was used was in 1984, to put down violence on France's Pacific Ocean territory of New Caledonia.

The French prime minister also promised more funding to improve housing and education in the rundown neighborhoods of France's cities where the troubles fomented.

Many of the youths involved in the violence are from families that immigrated from Algeria after it won its bloody battle for independence, as well as from other former French colonial territories in Africa. *AFP*

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But Egeland said the UN has launched "Operation Winter Race" to bring shelter to about 200,000 people living at high altitudes above the snow line in the rugged Himalayas and about 150,000 expected to come down to tent camps at lower elevations.

"The concept is one warm room per family before it becomes too cold," he said.

Egeland said he was encouraged that 334,000 tents have been delivered and that 332,000 more are in the pipeline, "and that should be enough" if all arrive and are distributed. But he issued an urgent appeal for stoves to help keep people warm. The quake destroyed the homes of more than 3 million people across Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and its portion of Kashmir, many of whom have moved into the many tent camps that have been set up in foothills of the Himalayas.

People continue to stream into the Pakistani Kashmir hub of Muzaffarabad, where they receive tents from aid agencies before trudging out of town with canvas and poles on their backs in search of any flat ground not already claimed by other survivors. *AP*

BRIEFS

or entry point for foreign fighters. One Marine has died there, the US command said Monday. The four soldiers who died in the suicide attack were assigned to the Army's Task Force Baghdad, the US command said, offering no further details. Earlier Monday, the military said a US soldier died Sunday in a roadside bombing near Tikrit. **AP**

Thai publisher slain

BANGKOK—Unidentified gunmen killed a newspaper publisher in Thailand, police said Tuesday, less than a week after another journalist was fatally shot in the country, and following attacks on others in the news media. Abdulor Benmoohamat, 37, publisher of the biweekly Thin-Thai, died Monday night after four attackers opened fire on his car in the southern city of Sungai Lokok, said police Lt. Col. Waresamae Saleh. Waresamae said the killing was not linked to continuing violence involving Islamic insurgents in the south, but was likely related to a business dispute. "The attack was motivated by personal conflict over an illegal business that the victim and attacker were involved in," he said. Two people have been detained by authorities but have not been charged, Waresamae said. **AP**

US charges 5 detainees

WASHINGTON—Five war-on-terror detainees were charged Monday with terrorism related offenses, raising to nine the number of prisoners who now face trial by military commission at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Pentagon said Monday. The Pentagon identified those charged as Bhassan Abdullah al Sharbi and Jabran Said bin al Qahtani of Saudi Arabia; Sufyian Barhoumi of Algeria; Binyam Ahmed Muhammad of Ethiopia; and Omar Ahmed Khadr of Canada. Four of those charged Monday—Al-Sharbi, Al-Qahtani, Barhoumi and Binyam Muhammad—were accused of conspiracy to attack civilians, to attack civilian objects, commit murder, destruction of property and terrorism **AFP**

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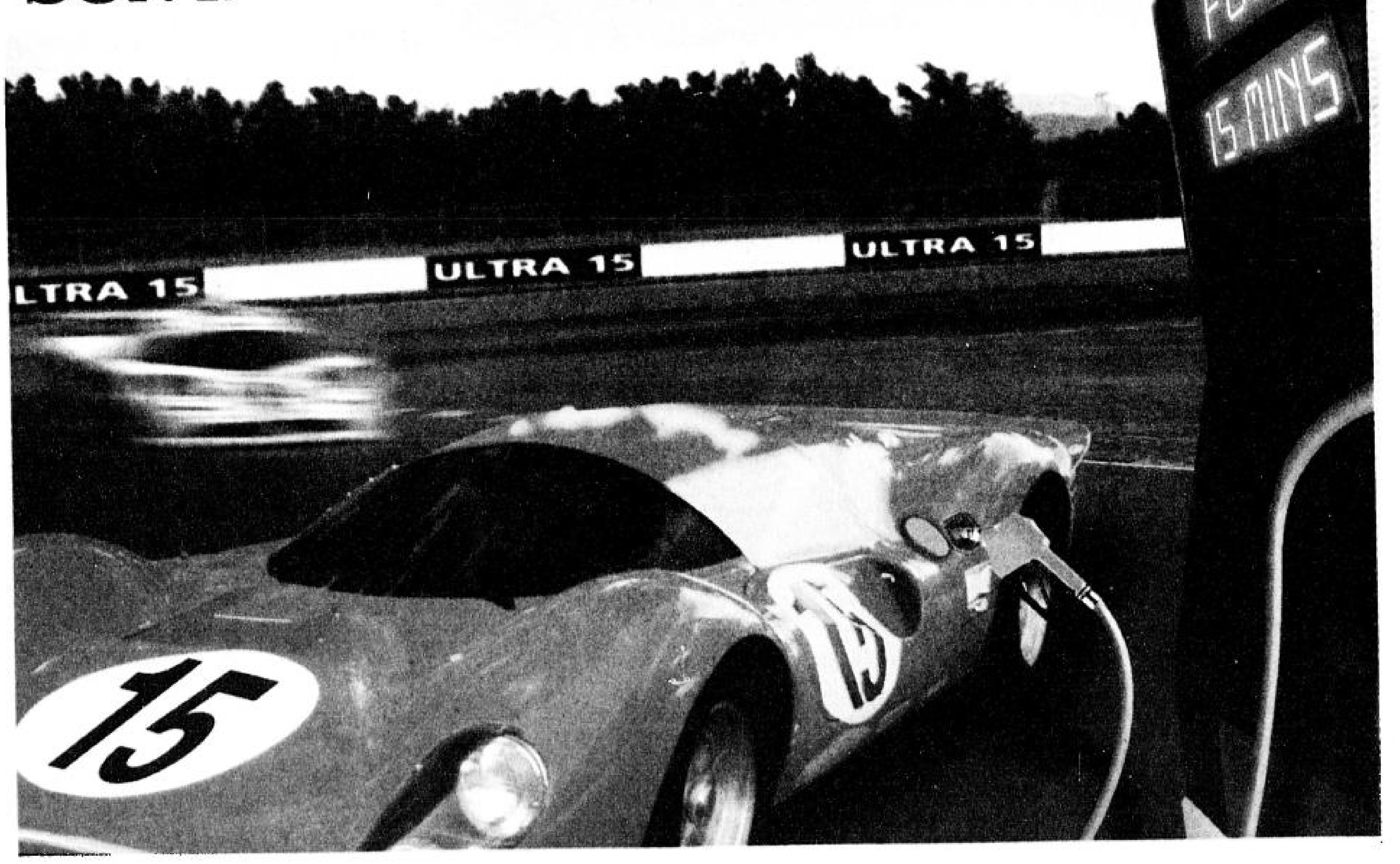

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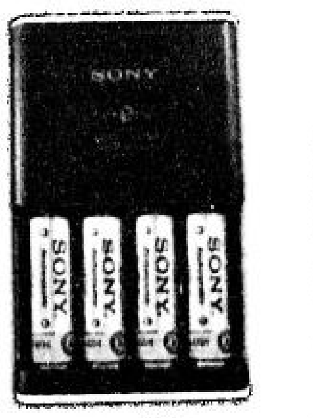
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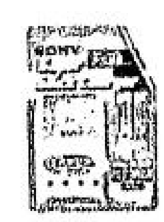
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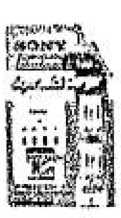
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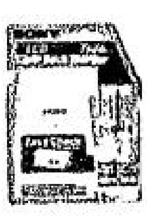
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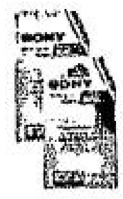
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OPINION

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Haste makes humiliation

EDITORIAL

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, THEY WERE LOOKING FOR A one-armed bandit. They were happy when he was caught—only to discover that the one caught was missing the wrong arm. The result was that, instead of being able to trumpet an important capture, the government, from President Macapagal-Arroyo down to some police officers, has had to deal with a thoroughly embarrassing PR disaster.

Had Abu Sayyaf chief of staff Radulan Sahiron actually been captured, it would have been a feather in the cap for the government. The man has been linked to 21 kidnap-for-ransom cases, including the 2000 abduction of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers in Sipadan, Malaysia. He has a $5-million reward on his head offered by the United States.

Compounding the palpable disappointment of our officials was that felt by the public and concerned authorities abroad, especially after the US Embassy quickly congratulated the government. The bungled arrest, on its own, approaches the string of erroneous announcements made in 2002—two in July of that year, and one each in August and October—which should have taught the government the strong lesson that it must investigate carefully before announcing an achievement.

Ms Arroyo is not the first president to have a penchant for parading captured suspects in public. Her problem is that she is the first president to trumpet achievements ahead of ironclad confirmation of whatever it is she wants to brag about.

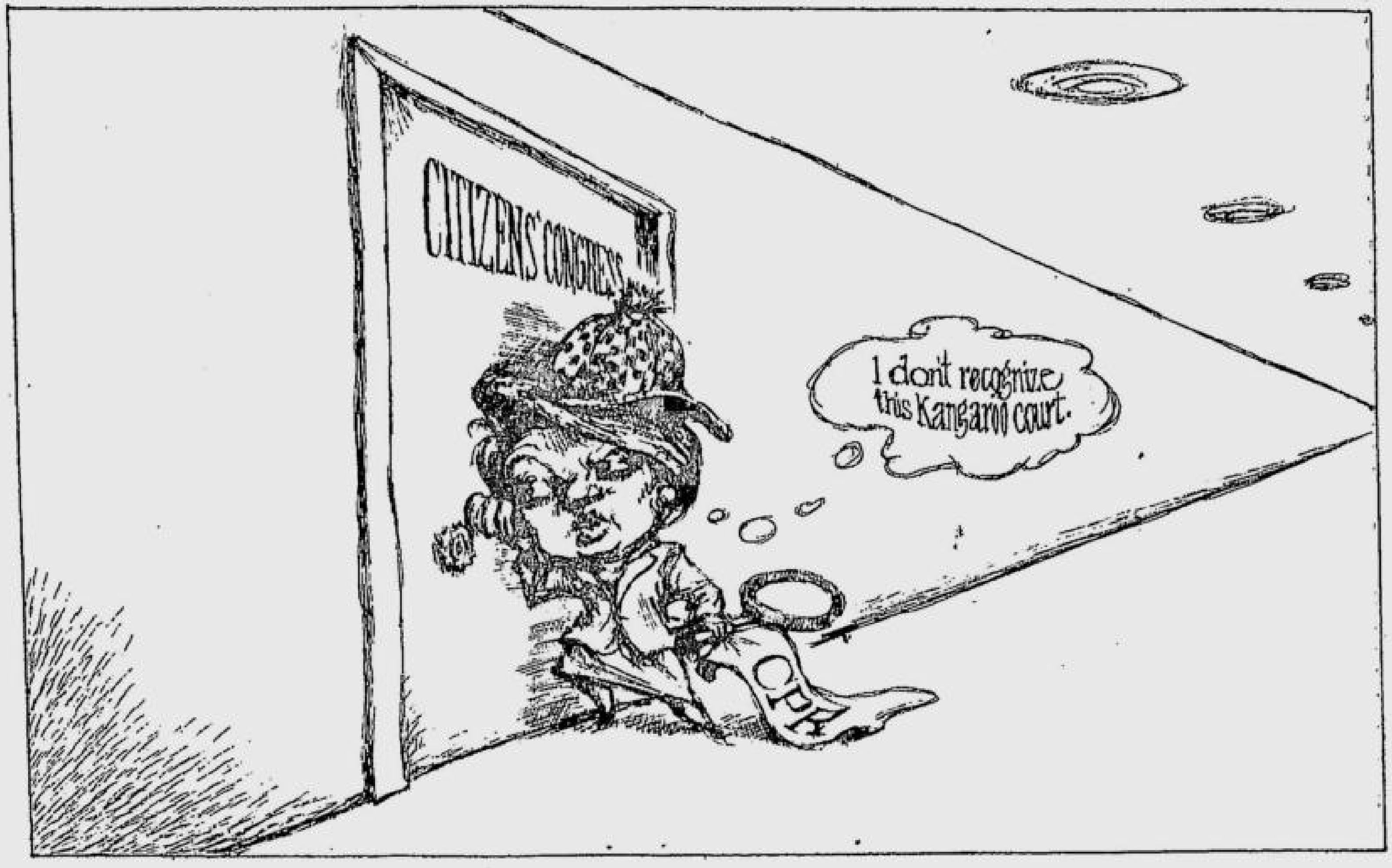
Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, the PNP spokesperson, says that what took place was that the field officers reported the arrest to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao, who in turn reported it to the President. "The information was relayed by our operatives in the field, with Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza informing the chief PNP. The chief PNP informed the President about the development in this operation."

That was fine, as the chain of command goes, but it also lays the error firmly on the doorstep of the President. She could have waited for Lomibao to reach the scene of the arrest, where, among others, the PNP chief for intelligence, Director Simeon Dizon, who accompanied Lomibao, expressed doubts about the identity of the arrested suspect, not least because Sahiron was last reported to have been seen in the Sulu-Basilan and Tawi-Tawi areas. And then there came the rather incontrovertible fact that the man was missing the wrong arm.

The police are correct in saying that mistakes happen. But the only good news about the whole affair was that the cops didn't shoot first and ask questions later, as has been their traditional bad habit. On their own, the police did figure out they got the wrong guy. Had the government been less obsessed with patting its own back, the suspect could have been released without too much embarrassment not only to him but to the government.

This goes to the heart of what's wrong with the government's policy toward capturing people. The policy is to grab, nab, parade and then issue press releases, with the President taking the lead as her own primary propagandist. That is not what presidents should do, and it is not what law enforcement agencies should be doing. Their job does not include producing spectacles for radio, television and the print media. Their job is to track down people wanted for crimes, and deliver them to the courts for trial. There is still the presumption of innocence. Parading people in front of the media is not only a case of conviction by publicity, it's a habit that discredits law enforcement agencies when they make mistakes.

We would have thought that a President who has a fetish for attacking media for always finding fault with her, and who has strongly condemned her critics for prejudging her, would consider it a matter of principle to ensure that no one, regardless of the crime of which they're accused, suffers the same indignities she claims to be subjected to. It would seem elementary that a President who complains she's been tried by publicity would herself prevent similar trials by publicity. Obviously, she has not made the connection between her political woes and those experienced by people rounded up by cops for missing an arm—even if it's the wrong arm.


CITIZENS' CONGRESS
I don't recognize this Kangaroo court.
CPR

Miriam better spy than whole Isafp, PNP

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THAT'S ONE BOO-BOO AFTER ANOTHER—for the country's two law-enforcement agencies: the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police. One day, the AFP reported that "TV Patrol" anchor/reporter Julius Babao had posted the bail bond for suspected terrorist Tyrone "Dawud" Santos—an allegation that has been proven to be false. A few days later, the PNP captured the wrong man in the "arrest," trumpeted by President Macapagal-Arroyo, of Abu Sayyaf chief of staff Radulan Sahiron, alias "Commander Putol." The PNP captured a man with an arm missing all right, but he turned out to be an innocent man, cockfight aficionado Antonio Gara.

The PNP can't even distinguish left from right. Sahiron's missing arm is the right, while the missing arm of Gara is the left. And they don't even look alike, said those who have seen both.

The PNP and the AFP reacted differently to their boo-boos. While PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao was honest and gentlemanly enough to admit their error and apologize, the AFP's intelligence arm, Isafp, refused to acknowledge the error, much less apologize for it. On the contrary, it is making a bad situation worse by insisting that its report is accurate.

The President made the twin boo-boos even worse by getting into the act by triumphantly announcing both erroneous reports to media. Now that both have been proven false and did an injustice to the two wronged "suspects," she refuses to apologize for them. She is too quick to claim credit for "achievements" but too slow to claim responsibility for mistakes. (Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that instead of Malacañang apologizing, Babao should "clear himself." Babao has already cleared himself. The Isafp said it has no evidence against him, the suspected "terrorist" himself, Santos, confirmed that Babao did not pay for his bail, his two wives did, columnist Ramon Tulfo said Babao didn't either, neither did Santos' lawyer and his para-legal, Jonathan Tiongco, so what more does Ermita want?)

Malacañang is so lacking in real achievements that every tinhorn criminal arrested must be presented to media right in the Palace, with the President herself doing the presentation. Every beauty queen and every athlete who wins, every Filipino who lands a job abroad not as a domestic helper or as a laborer, and every visiting fireman, must be feted at the Palace and be photographed with the President. It is as if the President is trying to get a share of the reflected glory and publicity of outstanding Filipinos because she, by herself, has none. If it were not too gory, every petty criminal and outlaw killed by police and soldiers would probably be displayed in their bloodstained clothes right in the Palace with the President herself beaming over the cadavers.

Now that entry to Malacañang has been restricted because she doesn't trust all visitors, she has resorted to going to every Rotary lunch or dinner, every town fiesta, every opening or inauguration of anything, every marketplace where there are plenty of people she can shake hands with, where she can be photographed and deliver the same speech over and over, castigating the "destabilizers" and calling "for unity and reconciliation" like a broken record. She hardly has any time left to attend to her duty of running the government efficiently. She doesn't even have enough time to pause and castigate the AFP and PNP personnel who embarrassed her numerous times by feeding her the wrong information. Not, not even a slap on the wrist.

Like I said before, government intelligence agents can take a few lessons from practicing journalists, which is to check and recheck facts and get confirmation. Editors keep asking their reporters, "Is this confirmed?" Only when there is unassailable confirmation does the story get published. When there is none, the reporter is told to look for confirmation from other sources; sometimes other reporters are assigned to help him.

Isafp agents won't even make the grade as cub reporters of newspaper organizations. For an intelligence agent who has a hunch will file a report based purely on his suspicions (like that report on Babao) and his superiors, trying to curry favor with the President, sends the report to her without telling her that it is unconfirmed, and the President, too eager to trumpet achievements, quickly announces it to the media. Result: embarrassment—for her, the AFP, and her whole administration.

As the INQUIRER editorial noted, the Isafp report on Babao was filed six months ago. It was sent to the President only recently. During the six months between the two events, no effort was done by the Isafp to confirm the contents of the report. It would take no more than a phone call to verify from the bonding company who paid for Santos' bail bond, but the whole Isafp did no such thing.

In short, one woman, is a better intelligence agency than the whole Isafp. The latter is bumbling in the gathering of information, but Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago knows with certainty when and by whom the next coup attempt against GMA will be. She even promised to shoot herself in the head right on the Senate floor if her prediction doesn't come true. She had made the same promise earlier and when her self-imposed deadline elapsed but her prediction didn't materialize, she was asked why she hadn't shot herself yet. She answered, "I lied, ha, ha, ha."

That makes two of them.

Cry rape

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE FIRST THING THAT STRUCK ME ABOUT the rape case involving five US servicemen was the vigorous denials issued by people, among them Subic Bay authorities, that the victim was a sex worker. "The victim and her stepsister were here for a visit," said retired Gen. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy for operations. "*Hindi sila pakawala* (They are not loose women)." Other witnesses subsequently corroborated part of the story. The victim, a 22-year-old fresh graduate from Zamboanga, daughter of an Army soldier, had gone to Subic to visit her stepsister who had a boyfriend there. She wasn't a prostitute.

Doubtless Calimlim and the others meant well. And one can only imagine how the victim's stepsister must have felt upon learning of the horrible fate that befell her and the thought of the even more horrible gossip that was bound to follow. One can understand her stepsister's almost desperate need to protect her reputation and set the record straight.

But from another perspective, my first thought was: So what if the victim was a sex worker or a "loose woman," however that phrase is to be construed? Sex workers or "loose women" cannot possibly be raped? Or they are only "asking for it" when it happens to them"? Of course, the credibility of "sex workers" or the sexually promiscuous can get in the way of things, but it is not impossible to prove rape even in their cases. As well it should be.

The second thing that struck me about the case was the viciousness of it. The girl was plied with drink and God knows what else in a bar, shoved into a van, and raped inside by an American serviceman while his four buddies egged him on with cries of "F__k! F__k! F__k!" Later, she was lifted out of the van by her hands and feet by two men like a pig ("*parang baboy*") and deposited on the pavement. She had on only a shirt and a panty, a condom still sticking to her panty. Someone from the van threw a pair of pants in her direction, and the van drove off.

The people who did this clearly thought they were beyond being touched. Or they had quite a different interpretation of what "servicemen" meant. They didn't even bother to dispose of the condom which can prove the identity of the rapist.

Both details reminded me of a movie Jodie Foster made in the late 1980s, which drew critical attention and which was based on a real-life case of rape that took place in Bedford, Massachusetts in 1983. The movie is "The Accused." I saw it only a few months ago again on cable TV. I hope it will be shown again.

In the movie, Foster plays Sarah Tobias, a girl who goes to a local bar and is raped by three men while their friends goad them on with cries not unlike the one uttered by the friends of the rapist in Olongapo. The rapists are brought to trial, but the case is complicated by the fact that Sarah was dancing provocatively before the incident and had a past that fits the category of "loose woman." Her lawyer, a principled idealist, prosecutes the case brilliantly, however, proving that rape is rape no matter who, or what, the victim is. Indeed—I am sorry to reveal the ending—managing not just to go after the rapists but the men who cheered the rape on. The jury finds the latter guilty as well of participating in the rape even if they never laid hands on the victim.

I most seriously urge the prosecutors of this case to get hold of that movie, or better still research the actual case upon which it is based. I say this because it is not unlikely the defense—assuming the Americans truly cooperate and surrender the suspects to Philippine courts—will argue that the victim, who stayed in the bar after her stepsister and her boyfriend had left, was asking for it. And indeed that only one serviceman, if at all, needs to be punished because only one man committed the crime. Rape is rape, no matter who, or what, the victim is, and cheering a rape on is as much participating in it as the actual rape itself.

Both Malacañang and US authorities have been quick to say this is an isolated incident and should not be turned into a political issue. Well, at the very least, there is nothing isolated in the American response to it, which is to keep the suspects in their custody. That has been the typical response of American officials to their servicemen committing rape and murder in this country since the time of the Clark and Subic bases. They refuse to yield them to Philippine authorities. Which raises all sorts of questions about what is so mutual in the Mutual Defense Treaty. Can you imagine Filipino servicemen raping an American woman in America and the Philippine Embassy being allowed to harbor the fugitives?

Don't make this a political issue? Tell that to the Americans. Joker Arroyo is right: They want to cooperate, they should begin by giving up the suspects to be locked up in local jails. What are they afraid of, the servicemen being raped by the other inmates?

At the very most, no VFA, no "isolated" events like this. Indeed, no VFA no rape of this country at all. The VFA is a crime of rape unto itself, and is by no means an isolated case. It is but the latest of the repeated plying of this country with drink and God knows what else, carting it off in a van, and abusing it while American officials look approvingly on and chorus, "F__k! F__k! F__k!" It's time we woke up to see that the VFA is nothing more or less than a condom stuck in Maria Clara's panty after she has been given service by US servicemen and thrown into the pier. The only difference being that in the rape of the country, we have Filipino officials themselves pimping for the victim.

It's time we cried rape. It's time we got justice done.

Garbage and climate change

COMMENTARY

Alvin Mejia
Institute on Church and Social Issues

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE DUE TO THE GROWING concentration of greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere poses an enormous challenge to all of us today. Climate change brings extreme weather conditions as seen in the fury of recent hurricanes, typhoons and floods all over the globe.

Human activities have contributed significantly to the process of climate change. In a world spun by economic activities, the manufacture, distribution and use of products as well as the management of the resulting waste result in greenhouse gas emissions.

Landfilling, the most common waste management practice, results in the release of methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic material. Methane is 21 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. But even if methane is an infamous greenhouse gas, it is also an emerging source of energy. Captured landfill-gas can now be used to generate power which can either be transferred to the grid and/or power the operations of the landfill-gas capture facility. Around 25 solid and agricultural waste management projects are now under the Clean Development Mechanism project pipeline in the Philippines.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the global cooperation schemes established by the Kyoto Protocol, which aims to mitigate the process of climate change and help developing countries attain sustainable development. Participating industrialized countries, which are major contributors of greenhouse gases, have agreed to implement an average of 5.2 percent reduction from their 1990s emission levels to be realized in the 2008-2012 commitment period. Under the CDM framework, greenhouse gas emission-reduction activities by the industrialized countries, such as the construction of landfill-gas capture facilities, can be implemented anywhere in the world, particularly in developing countries, where costs are lower.

Waste disposal sites here in the Philippines account for 12 percent of the methane released into the atmosphere. CDM gives us a viewpoint wherein we can see these disposal sites as sources of energy rather than just sources of pollution.

The Payatas dump, which took the lives of more than 200 waste pickers back in 2000, is now being transformed into a 1-MW power generating facility that will be able to supply electricity to 2,000 households in the area. Landfill-gas capture projects such as the Payatas project assist in mitigating uncontrolled greenhouse gas emissions from the landfill and provide indigenous sources of energy.

Although CDM gives a way to mitigate green house gas emissions from our waste, it merely touches a dimension of the whole problem which is the mismanagement of waste.

Over the last few weeks, we have seen the squabble over the Montalban Solid Waste Disposal Facility which accepts 1,500 tons of the 8,000 tons of garbage Metro Manila produces daily. Mayor Pedro Cuerpo of Montalban gave in to the request of the Metro Manila Development Authority to keep the facility open to the garbage of Metro Manila, but only up to the end of the year.

An Asian Development Bank study revealed that the cost of garbage collection and disposal for Metro Manila amounts to P3.54 billion annually. But apparently, there is still a need to raise this budget to satisfy the demands of Montalban regarding the tipping fee for Metro Manila's garbage.

With the imminent closure of the Montalban Waste Disposal Facility, we are faced with the reality that our resources are finite and thus, we cannot keep on carelessly disposing of our garbage forever. Metro Manila is a ticking time bomb of trash. A study conducted by the Manila Observatory says that the daily waste generated in Metro Manila can reach as much as 16,166 tons in 2020. The projected methane emissions from Metro Manila's solid waste will be 292.78 Gigagrams a year or about thrice the 96.70 Gg per year in 2000.

According to the National Solid Waste Management Commission of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, household waste coming from Metro Manila is largely composed of recyclable and reusable materials. Food and kitchen wastes, paper and plastic lead the tally. Simple waste management tools such as reusing, reducing and recycling will help us address our looming garbage problem, or at least slow it down and give us more time to develop a consolidated and effective solid waste management scheme.

Mismanagement of waste has serious environmental consequences. It causes floods, pollutes our water sources and could spread diseases, to name a few. But more importantly, it is a significant contributor to the process of climate change.

The global war against this invisible nemesis has already begun. We can take up the battle in our homes and winning can be as simple as reducing and recycling our waste. Simple efforts like these, if taken collectively, will let us reap significant benefits in the years to come.

The 'shy' Mayon

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

LEGAZPI CITY—STEPPING OUT OF PACIFIC Mall, one encounters Mayon Volcano almost, it seems, at the doorstep, looming large, one slope and its "perfect cone" blanketed with clouds.

It's a breathtaking sight, and certainly unexpected since one is standing by a side entrance of a mall, not a tourist "viewpoint." But this is what they say of Albay and its best-known symbol: Anywhere you turn, you will catch a glimpse of the volcano, almost as if it were playing hide-and-seek with you.

Locals have even come up with a legend about the "shy" spirit maiden who dwells in Mayon. Whenever strange men dare gaze upon her beauty, it's said, she seeks to conceal herself with a veil of clouds or a foggy sky. Rare indeed is the clear, sunny day when the full profile of Mayon can be admired from all directions.

At Small Talk, a restaurant that features Bicolano "fusion" cuisine, one wall is devoted to a montage of prints and photos of Mayon through the years—from the Spanish era to a post-war photograph of the lovely volcano glimpsed through bullet-riddled church pillars. Indeed, Mayon Volcano has been an unchanging icon for the entire Bicol Region, a presence that speaks of heritage and a sense of place, as important to one's sense of belonging as family and culture.

And so this is how I begin this brief visit to my father's native region—through a reacquaintance with Mayon, and touching base with facets of Bicol culture that sadly, I know too little of.

* * *

A PRIMARY facet of Bicol culture is, of course, its food. For lunch, we were brought by officials of the regional Population Commission office to Small Talk, a cozy restaurant housed in a converted residence and done up in a cross of ethnic and Mediterranean styles. The main draw is the "Pasta Mayon," Italian with a Bicolano twist, since it features *pinangat* in ravioli pillows with a tasty tomato-based sauce. The *pinangat—gabi* leaves cooked in coconut milk and flavored with pork—add just a hint of spiciness to the robust sauce. A successful attempt at culinary fusion, I dare say!

We also tried the "Crispy Tilapia," the otherwise lowly fish "upscaled" in presentation by deep-frying the whole battered tilapia to a crisp, such that, true to the promise in the menu, the entire fish was edible, down to the fins! Intrigued by the name, I also ordered a "Pili Chocolate Chip Sundae," imagining glistening pili chips nestled in chocolate sauce. But to my disappointment, the pili turned out to be inside two chocolate chip cookies sandwiching a scoop of vanilla ice cream. But it was a pleasant ending to a pleasant meal anyway!

* * *

ALMOST mandatory while in this city is a stop at the main outlet of the New Albay Central Pilinut Candy, as evidenced by an entire wall of photos of celebrities from the world of entertainment and politics who have patronized the store and posed with the current proprietor, Rosemarie Diaz Battung.

Rosemarie is a third-generation pili nut candy merchant, being the granddaughter of Don Antonio Regidor, a Spaniard who pioneered the manufacture of pili nut candies in Bicol by setting up, with a Moroccan friend (a former foreign legionnaire!), the Central Pilinut Candy in 1936.

Family lore has it that Don Antonio, in the course of his wanderings through the Philippines, reached Bicol and wondered why pili nuts were simply being discarded after the flesh of the fruit had been consumed. It was he who thought of substituting the tasty nut with the imported nuts his mother, a confectioner in Spain, was using in her recipes. His shop and factory would later become famous for its mazapan, yema, sugar-coated carmelitos, pastillas, and pili coated with sesame seeds.

From Albay, to the world. Products of the New Albay Central Pilinut Candy are now being exported, packaged in attractive and upscale-looking cans that bring pili up a notch from its old rustic image.

The present generation of Diazes has certainly lived up to their proud heritage. A cousin of Rosemarie's is Sheryl Diaz Meyer, the Filipino-American news photographer who won a Pulitzer for her coverage of the Iraq war and who has always spoken out with pride about her childhood in Bicol.

* * *

ONE wouldn't have thought this brief visit would have turned out so well given how it began.

This is to call attention to the authorities in charge of the Legazpi City airport to get off their butts and do something about the procedure—or lack of it—of retrieving luggage from arriving planes. The system—or lack of it—seems to me designed mainly to perk up the business of the porters swarming all over the arrival area rather than for the convenience of the passengers. In fact, the passengers are actually barricaded from their luggage, discouraged from approaching the luggage lorries and kept away by a metal barrier. If one wants to retrieve one's bag or package, one has to call one of the porters, who have full access to the luggage area, to get it. Or else, one has to inveigle one's way into the side of the arrival area where the bags are placed, which is certainly annoying because, after all, those are your possessions you want to take hold of!

This seems to be SOP in most provincial airports without a luggage carousel. (In Bacolod, there's a small carousel but instead of going round and round, it ends after a few feet, spilling everything on to the floor.) Can't the airlines fork out the cash to hire a few porters, to carry the luggage from the lorry and line them up so passengers can retrieve them in an orderly fashion? Espying some foreign visitors looking on hopelessly at the chaos in the arrival area, I felt acute embarrassment as a Filipino—no thanks to our shortsighted airport officials.

Islam's forsaken renaissance

COMMENTARY

Mahathir bin Mohamad

CHILDREN OFTEN PLAY A GAME WHERE THEY sit in a circle. One whispers something to his neighbor, who then whispers that information to the next child, and so on, around the circle. By the time the last child whispers the information to the first child, it is totally different from what was originally said.

Something like that seems to have happened within Islam. The Prophet of Islam, Mohammed, brought one—and only one—religion. Yet today we have perhaps a thousand religions that all claim to be Islam.

Divided by their different interpretations, Muslims do not play the role they once did in the world; instead, they are weakened and victimized. The Shia-Sunni schism is so deep that each side condemns followers of the other as apostates, *kafir*. The belief that the other's religion is not Islam, and its followers not Muslim, has underpinned internecine wars in which millions have died—and continue to die.

Even among the Sunnis and Shias, there are further divisions. The Sunnis have four imams and the Shias have 12, and their teachings all differ. Then there are other divisions, including the Druze, the Alawites and the Wahabis.

We are also taught by our *ulamas* (religious instructors) that their teachings must not be questioned. Islam is a faith. It must be believed. Logic and reason play no part in it. But what is it that we must believe when each branch of Islam thinks the other one is wrong? The Koran, after all, is one book, not two or three, or a thousand.

According to the Koran, a Muslim is anyone who bears witness that "there is no God (Allah) but Allah, and that Mohammed is his Rasul (Messenger)." If no other qualification is added, then all those who subscribe to these precepts must be regarded as Muslims. But because we like to add qualifications that often derive from sources other than the Koran, our religion's unity has been broken.

But perhaps the greatest problem is the progressive isolation of Islamic scholarship—and much of Islamic life—from the rest of the modern world. We live in an age of science in which people can see around corners, hear and see things happening in outer space, and clone animals. And all of these things seem to contradict our belief in the Koran.

This is so because those who interpret the Koran are learned only in religion, in its laws and practices, and thus are usually unable to understand today's scientific miracles. The *fatwas* (legal opinions concerning Islamic law) that they issue appear unreasonable and cannot be accepted by those with scientific knowledge.

One learned religious teacher, for example, refused to believe that a man had landed on the moon. Others assert that the world was created 2,000 years ago. The age of the universe and its size measured in light years are things that the purely religiously trained *ulamas* cannot comprehend.

This failure is largely responsible for the sad plight of so many Muslims. Today's oppression, the killings and the humiliations of Muslims occur because we are weak, unlike the Muslims of the past. We can feel victimized and criticize the oppressors, but to stop them we need to look at ourselves. We must change for our own good. We cannot ask our detractors to change, so that Muslims benefit.

So what do we need to do? In the past, Muslims were strong because they were learned. Mohammed's injunction was to read, but the Koran does not say what to read. Indeed, there was no "Muslim scholarship" at the time, so to read meant to read whatever was available. The early Muslims read the works of the great Greek scientists, mathematicians and philosophers. They also studied the works of the Persians, the Indians and the Chinese.

The result was a flowering of science and mathematics. Muslim scholars added to the body of knowledge and developed new disciplines, such as astronomy, geography and new branches of mathematics. They introduced numerals, enabling simple and limitless calculations.

But around the 15th century, the learned in Islam began to curb scientific study. They began to study religion alone, insisting that only those who study religion, particularly Islamic jurisprudence, gain merit in the afterlife. The result was intellectual regression at the very moment that Europe began embracing scientific and mathematical knowledge.

And so, as Muslims were intellectually regressing, Europeans began their renaissance, developing improved ways of meeting their needs, including the manufacture of weapons that eventually allowed them to dominate the world.

By contrast, Muslims fatally weakened their ability to defend themselves by neglecting, even rejecting, the study of allegedly secular science and mathematics, and this myopia remains a fundamental source of the oppression suffered by Muslims today. Many Muslims still condemn the founder of modern Turkey, Mustafa Kamal, because he tried to modernize his country. But would Turkey be Muslim today without Ataturk? Mustafa Kamal's clear-sightedness saved Islam in Turkey and saved Turkey for Islam.

Failure to understand and interpret the true and fundamental message of the Koran has brought only misfortune to Muslims. By limiting our reading to religious works and neglecting modern science, we destroyed Islamic civilization and lost our way in the world.

The Koran says, "Allah will not change our unfortunate situation unless we make the effort to change it." Many Muslims continue to ignore this and, instead, merely pray to Allah to save us, to bring back our lost glory. But the Koran is not a talisman to be hung around the neck for protection against evil. Allah helps those who improve their minds. ***Project Syndicate***

Mahathir bin Mohamad was prime minister of Malaysia from 1981 to 2003.

Looking alike

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WHEN I WAS STUDYING IN THE UNITED STATES AND IN Europe, I would occasionally get approached by people—almost always Caucasian—in school who would then start talking to me about some topic for about half a minute and then abruptly stop and apologize: "Oops, I'm sorry, I thought you were Kenneth Lee." (I am just using Kenneth Lee as an example; sometimes, it would be a Japanese, Vietnamese, even Thai name.)

Most of the mistaken encounters involved strangers, but sometimes it would even be friends, who would then apologize when they realized they'd made a mistake but add, half in jest, "Sorry, Mike, you Asians all look alike."

I'll be honest and say I too have problems at times with people coming from a different "racial" background from my own. I belong to several international advisory committees and whenever we have meetings, I have problems remembering some colleagues because, yes, "they all look alike."

Can't, or won't?

Why does this "they all look alike" syndrome happen so often?

There are two explanations offered by psychologists who have looked into this phenomenon. One theory says we can't differentiate people of other races because we don't have enough "perceptual expertise" to do this, meaning because we don't meet people of other races often enough, so we don't learn to distinguish their facial features.

About five years ago, Daniel Levin of Kent State University came up with another theory which I find more appealing: It's not that we can't make out the differences but that we don't want to. When we see someone of a different race, we automatically zero in on their being "different" and then, paradoxically, become blinded to the differences among people of that other race.

Put another way, if I were to run into another Filipino, my brain would process his or her facial features, height, body conformation, even voice, to come up with a composite picture. That runs through my memory files in a split second and tells me, "She's Sol Dalisay, your fellow professor in UP." Now if I ran into a French visiting professor, it might be different. My brain sees the skin color and almost immediately stops processing after concluding, "Kano." Or maybe I'll see a nose and go, "maybe French because it looks like Charles de Gaulle's nose but I can't tell, they all look alike."

Smell, sound alike

I've written about this in the past but it bears repeating: "race" is an artificial construct created by Western physical anthropologists in the 19th century and now discredited. "Race" emphasizes what biologists call phenotypic differences or superficial external appearances, particularly skin color. In the last decade, genetic research, particularly the Human Genome Project which is mapping out all our genes, has found that across "races" we all have pretty much the same genotype or gene set-up; in fact, if there are differences, they are sharper within, rather than among, "races."

But humans are a tribal lot. We need the security of a social group and find all kinds of ways to create a group identity, claiming common origins through family trees, or a home town or home province, or even constructing this thing called "race." Add the competition for land and other resources and we can get quite nasty about "us" versus "them," to the point where we characterize "them" as all being the same, generally with negative attributes.

I haven't been keeping pace with the research in psychology around racial perceptions, but I'm sure there's a lot that can be done not just about the way we tend to see "them" as all looking alike, but even how we start to claim they all smell and sound alike.

Even more importantly, I suspect these perceptions are extended not just for "races" but for anyone different from ourselves. To give an example, some years back when a UP student was shot dead in Diliman, some bystanders told police they had heard the assailant speaking in "Muslim."

Of course, there's no such language as "Muslim" but our anti-Muslim biases tell us it exists. It's not surprising, given the way headlines scream about "Muslim" terrorists but never "American" or "Christian" terrorist. A violent crime? It had to be committed by someone "speaking Muslim."

Experience, expertise

Serious problems can erupt around these biases in perception. In the United States, there have been many cases of miscarriage of justice resulting from these biases. Caucasian witnesses may identify an innocent black American as the perpetrator of a crime simply because "they all look alike." Even worse, there have been cases where the actual criminal was a Caucasian but Caucasian witnesses confidently identified a black American as the perpetrator.

What's so terrifying here is that we see what we want to see. Lumping people together makes it easier for prejudices to take over. "Arab" is equated with a Middle Eastern "race" and Islam, when in fact there is no Middle Eastern "race" and when in fact there are many Arab Christians. As we "homogenize" other people, they become more distant, more different, almost non-human.

The situation worsens as mass media feed into mass hysteria. It's not surprising we've seen so many instances of genocide, from the Nazi holocaust to the Rwanda massacres, in the last century, as mass media technologies exploded.

I thought of doing this article after reading about the latest faux pas on the part of the President and her crime-busting team, i.e. their indecently hasty announcement of the arrest of a "terrorist," who it turned out was a man with a missing left arm when they were looking for someone, yes a "Muslim" terrorist, with a missing right arm.

When you're looking for a terrorist, and when you want publicity as badly as the President and her crime-busters, you can get careless. You're in Zamboanga, surrounded by potential "Muslim terrorists with one missing arm" and suddenly everyone looks like the suspect.

I tend to subscribe to a hybrid of the two theories around perceptions of people different from ourselves. On one hand, we do need to develop the experiences and "expertise" in perceptions by having more friends with backgrounds different from our own. These friendships help us to unlearn our stereotypes about how "they" all look, smell and sound alike.

You'll know when you're developing "perceptual expertise": you see someone and you don't reduce that person to race or religion. In unlearning our stereotypes, we learn to appreciate the differences that do exist but see these not as dividing us, but bringing us together for a much more diverse and exciting world.

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The real OFW hero is also an investor in RP

I REFER TO THE EDITORIAL, "Passport to prosperity?" (PDI, 10/27/05) While it is true that working abroad somehow gives us a passport to prosperity, it's still just a step closer. I believe that our positive response to Sen. Manuel Villar's call for us to go up the next level from OFW to OFI (overseas Filipino investor) will make prosperity a reality. House bills like that should be passed expediently.

Many of my friends here in Singapore, including myself, dream of putting up our own business. We are determined to help the towns where we come from generate wealth. Brain drain only happens when we totally uproot ourselves and never go back. But there are many of us OFWs who consider this stage of our lives as only a season of learning and acquiring better skills. We dream of going back and helping our communities realize their potentials to be economically prosperous. The question for us is when. When do we go back? Apparently, this becomes the hardest question everyone of us struggles with. When things become perfect at home? No, we realize that there is no perfect timing.

So while we make it out here and figure out how to make it there again, we urge our lawmakers and our rich countrymen who are capable of creating businesses, to improve our country's economy, so that opportunities for employment will be aplenty, and we would need foreign talents more than we need to export local ones. And all of us OFWs would go home.

While we are called the new heroes of our economy, we don't really feel like it. Once, a Singaporean taxi driver asked me what I was doing in Singapore. And then he went on to boast that he's got a chicken farm in Mindoro even if he's not a Filipino or even if he doesn't have a Filipino wife or family, because he wanted to help our poor country. He advised me to go back and make our country wealthier. I may doubt his sincerity or scorn his bragging, but the truth is, most of us here would really like to go back and help our country become better. And see ourselves sending money from home to destitute places in Africa or to other needy places in the world. That makes for real heroism.

Who does not want to be called a hero? But most certainly, none of us OFWs feel like one. Those who generate wealth from our own resources back home are the real heroes. They are the pillars of our economy. OFWs are here today, gone tomorrow. So, may all OFWs be OFIs and be a "brain gain" for our beloved country.

—HANSEN SY,
syhansen@gmail.com

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PHILIPPINES

Partnerships in building decent homes in decent communities

From November 7 to 9, Mr. Jonathan Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International CEO, visits the Philippine program to see major projects built in partnership with the national and local governments with the support of other Friends of Habitat in the Philippines.

The "Bagong Buhay Village" in Baseco is a post-disaster rehabilitation project of Mayor Lito Atienza to provide decent housing to the thousands of families affected by the fire in early 2004. Habitat Philippines is using a New Zealand-sourced steel-frame technology that is very volunteer friendly. A row of eight units can be built in fifteen days with minimal skilled labor. Funding support comes from the Office of the President, the City of Manila, Habitat International and, with the help of the local "Friends of Habitat," houses are built at only ₱ 40,000 per unit.

In the City of Taguig, Mayor Freddie Tinga provided the land under a usufruct right which enabled Habitat Philippines to build its first-ever "medium rise buildings" (MRBs). Nine of these buildings were completed in ten months using a Habitat innovation, concrete interlocking blocks (CIB), at only ₱ 3,500 per square meter.

With the active partnership with government, the use of these innovative technologies, eager volunteers, and the support of all other "Friends of Habitat," Habitat Philippines has been able to increase significantly its annual building capacity. Habitat Philippines now ranks among the top three country builders of Habitat International.

Mr. Jonathan Reckford, who was recently named the CEO of Habitat for Humanity International, is committed to push aggressively Habitat's mission of eradicating poverty housing. In a recent interview, Mr. Reckford said, "It is humbling to get to serve alongside the thousands of committed Habitat associates and volunteers to bring hope and dignity, build communities and strive toward our mission to eradicate poverty housing."

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Philippines
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Habitat for Humanity Philippines is supported by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Jonathan Reckford

Wild birds on windows and playgrounds

I AM A PRIVATE CITIZEN, WORKING IN Makati City. I grew up as a farmer in Calatagan, Batangas, and I have been regularly traveling between Batangas province and the Bicol region. I am a keen observer of my surroundings as well as of our environment.

I want to share this idea of mine on how to avoid avian flu. Based on my experience as a farm boy and later as a farmer, I believe that kids are most vulnerable to the avian flu. Why?

Migratory birds are the most likely carriers of the avian flu virus. Considering the proximity of our country to those countries that have been affected by the flu, infected migratory birds from there would be weak and dying by the time they reach here. This is the point where nobody thinks of the potential danger.

1. When a person sees a wild bird perching on his window, the first instinct is to catch it. No one will ever think that the bird might be infected with the dangerous virus. Why? Because nobody has made us aware of that possibility.

2. When kids are playing in backyards, school campuses, or community playgrounds, and they see a bird hopping around, their first instinct is to catch the bird. Why? Because nobody made them aware of the danger that the bird might be infected with the flu virus.

At this point, I appeal to the concerned authorities to immediately issue a circular or a memo for dissemination in all schools—elementary, high school or college—on the possibility of catching avian flu in the manner described above. So much has been said about poultry products, wild pet cages, etc., but nothing has been said about wild birds perched on windows and hopping around playgrounds.

—PAUL H. DUMAN,
Sagittarius Condominium,
HV Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Love, our country's greatest need today

LAST MARCH 2005, WELL-KNOWN WRITER Joseph Girzone published his latest "Joshua" book: "Joshua in a Troubled World." It tells the story of Joshua—(Jesus)—walking the streets of an American city, in search of Israelis and Palestinians of goodwill. He helps to bring them together, including people of different creeds, to plan for peace between the two nations—to be accomplished through love and dialogue. Eventually these people of goodwill grew in number and were able to reach the leaders of both countries. The result was that a peace agreement was signed, and the two countries began to live together in mutual respect and understanding.

Joshua is walking the streets of Manila and the Philippines today, searching for people of goodwill. He knows there are many such people among the politicians, religious and ordinary Filipinos; and they are listening to Him in their hearts, even as they feel that the present situation is going out of control and not in the direction of the people's welfare. He is telling them that there is another way—His Way—the way of love and mutual understanding. He is searching for "prophets"—politicians, religious and ordinary people—who can analyze the situation according to His Heart and organize a movement for love and unity. It is not a matter of taking sides—too many of His would-be prophets have already done that and in the process have become sowers of hatred, dissension and confrontation. He wants to bring both sides—all sides—together again to work for God and country and "to let love make us serve one another." (Gal. 5:13-15)

The country today is being destroyed by too much "wisdom"—the wisdom of politicians, religious, media, angry people. "What this world considers to be wisdom is nonsense in God's sight. As scripture says: 'God traps the wise in their cleverness... God knows that the thoughts of the wise are worthless.'" (I Cor. 3:18-23) Unfortunately, they lead people into more misery and disunity.

The greatest need in the country today is love.

—EDWARD M. KELLY,
PO Box 3037, Manila

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Life, love and survival at Luisita

By Jo Martinez-Clemente
Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City

INDIVIDUAL STORIES OF HAcienda Luisita's striking workers could have been plucked out from Gabriel Garcia Marquez's novel "Love in the Time of Cholera" as their first year at the picket lines is replete with accounts of death, of love blooming amid the crisis, of children being born, and of their daily struggle to survive.

STRIKING workers of Hacienda Luisita gather at the Cojuangco family-owned sugar estate in Tarlac City to press their demands for higher wages and benefits. The photo was taken in November last year. JO CLEMENTE

On Nov. 6 last year, agricultural and industrial workers of the vast sugar estate in Tarlac City simultaneously walked out of their workplaces.

The agricultural workers protested "massive" retrenchment and urged the government to revoke the 15-year-old stock distribution scheme being implemented at the hacienda in compliance with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.

On the other hand, the industrial workers struck after negotiations with management for a new collective bargaining agreement were deadlocked.

The strike crippled operations of Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), one of the major sugar centrals in Luzon. This prompted Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to assume jurisdiction over the case.

The military, particularly the Northern Luzon Command, saw the situation as a "threat to national security." Communist rebels, Nolcom officials said, would take advantage of the issues to further their political agenda.

Life continues

Amid this volatile environment, the cycle of life continues.

The strikers commemorate their first anniversary by honoring those who lost their lives for their cause: Farmer leaders Marcelino Beltran and Ben Concepcion, Tarlac City Councilor Abelardo Ladera, Aglipayan priest William Tadena, CAT Labor Union president Ricardo Ramos, and seven workers and supporters who died during the picket dispersal on Nov. 16 last year.

At the same time, the workers will celebrate life's "brighter side."

For love that blossomed on the strike front, six couples will tie the knot while "picket babies" will be baptized on Nov. 16.

But for most of the workers, there is hardly any difference between a year at the picket line and a year at work.

"*Noong walang* strike, *minsan sa isang linggo lang din naman pinapapasok ang mga tao* (Even before the strike, workers reported for work once a week)," says Apolinario Trinidad, of Barangay Cutcut.

Alternative jobs

Just like before, Trinidad says, most of the 539 workers in his village go out of the hacienda to work as laborers in construction sites or accept jobs as farmhands in nearby towns during the planting or harvesting of *palay*. Some work as domestic helpers.

The more enterprising, he says, found other means of support, such as refilling lighter fluid for P5 per refill.

Despite Ramos' murder on Oct. 25, Catlu members said they would carry out the terms of the final negotiations that their officers agreed with management in an Oct. 20 meeting.

A memorandum of agreement will be signed following a review by the lawyers of CAT and Catlu, according to Romeo Zarate, a union spokesperson.

Among the breakthroughs in the negotiations were a daily wage increase of P15, a signing bonus of P13,000, and nonimplementation of the Department of Labor and Employment order terminating 35 officers of Catlu.

Reinstatement

Ramos, in an INQUIRER interview two days before he was killed, said management had agreed to reinstate 33 of the 35 union officers. He said the two whom management would not want back opted to retire.

Catlu has also set as a condition for the MOA signing the immediate resolution of the dispute between the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu) and the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI).

"Even if we now have achieved breakthroughs in negotiations with Catlu and even if they lift their picket, the gates of the sugar central will remain barricaded as Ulwu is still there," said Joey Romasanta, vice president for corporate affairs of Jose Cojuangco & Sons, the managing firm of CAT.

Romasanta said the management saw the necessity of resolving disputes with agricultural and industrial workers simultaneously so that hacienda operations could return to normal.

He said CAT vice president Ernesto Teopaco and Ulwu president Rene Galang were scheduled to meet to negotiate, but this was postponed in deference to the mourning period for Ramos.

Unions' meeting

Romasanta was optimistic that efforts exerted by Ramos and Teopaco in reaching a settlement would not be wasted.

A coordination and consultative meeting between Catlu and Ulwu was held to outline their agenda with HLI. Zarate said the important items to be discussed with the management were the release of the unpaid earned wages of Ulwu members and the company's intention to continue operating.

The issues, however, were independent of the agrarian concerns of Ulwu and the focus would only be on the labor issues, he said.

Like Catlu, Ulwu struck Nov. 6 last year while negotiations for a new CBA were ongoing.

Galang and 15 other union officers were laid off due to what management described as a rationalization of its organization to contain its losses.

Bishops' concern

Earlier, Catholic Bishops Fernando Capalla (Davao), Florentino Cinense (Tarlac) and Paciano Aniceto (Pampanga), all of whom have been helping resolve labor and agricultural problems in Hacienda Luisita, have warned of more bloodshed if the issues are not resolved.

"Lest those who promised to bring justice and peace in the country fail, Hacienda Luisita will be the Mendiola of Central Luzon," the bishops said in a statement released on the burial of Ramos on Nov. 2

The bishops described Ramos as a "defender of the poor and lover of peace" who welcomed the participation of the church to resolve the issues in the hacienda.

They said the church saw the "presence of goodness" in statements made by President Macapagal-Arroyo, former Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Dominguez, former President Corazon Aquino, and hacienda officials who all wanted a peaceful resolution to the issues, including the slaying of Ramos.

They were hoping that God would give those concerned the "will and sincerity" to accomplish what they promised to do.

If not, they said they feared that instead of jets of water, protesters would be facing bullets.

When Cordillera communities let go of their relics

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
Baguio City

LIFE AND DEATH RITUALS are often evolved among indigenous communities of the Cordillera to preserve a memory, or a story, that has relevance to the villages' survival. But what happens when the stories are no longer important to new generations?

That seems to be the fate of some of the country's ancient relics.

In Kabayan town in Benguet, historians discovered the vandalism of one of three 14-inch rock impressions alongside a ridge near the more popular caves of the Ibaloi mummies. Old Ibaloi described the unique impressions as the footprint of a giant creature called "Besang."

Youthful residents, who were irritated by onlookers that are drawn by these gigantic marks, destroyed one of the mythical figures.

In Besao town in Mt. Province, portions of a centuries-old stone calendar were stolen, ruining a rice cycle still practiced by indigenous Agawa residents.

Kenneth Kelcho, a local historian and leader of Kabayan's youth organizations, cited efforts to educate the young people about their remaining antiquities and historical monuments.

Natural landscapes

Kelcho, who promotes scientific researches of the mummies, said the Kabayan Tourism Council has started discussing the value of "authentic natural landscapes" to ensure the safety of most indigenous relics there.

He said the present generation of indigenous Igorot needed to recover the tribal "respect" for archeological artifacts.

Members of the Agawa tribe in Besao are aware of their loss.

They tracked down the calendar when it disappeared in 1986, but recovered only a third of the relic. Many of them believed the loss was "political motivated."

The stone tablet has deep markings, which describe village rituals as soon as the sun's rays hit the calendar at certain periods of the year. The rays signal the start of rice planting.

Journal of rituals

Gloria Bantog, a member of the Agawa tribe, said the calendar was used as a community ritual journal.

The short marks on the tablet indicate that the village should butcher a small pig for the gods, while the longer lines suggest that a larger boar should be sacrificed for a specific planting period.

The late historian and anthropologist William Henry Scott found similarities in the markings on the defaced stone calendar and the ancient form of writing in China during the Shang Dynasty in 16 BC.

Politics also seems to have affected efforts to restore the country's most popular relics: the Ifugao rice terraces.

Some Ifugao towns are now challenging the government for enlisting their ancient farms as World Heritage sites, according to a source from the Ifugao provincial government.

"This is a common observation among villages, who were surprised to find out that they are now obliged to restore their uneconomical farms on these terraces. 'Why? Were we consulted?' has become the new retort," the source said.

He said the reactions stemmed from the absence of transparency regarding a P50-million grant to restore the terraces that had yet to be properly liquidated.

The communities are also offended by "unsolicited advice" from international experts who pressure local governments about the restoration, the source added.

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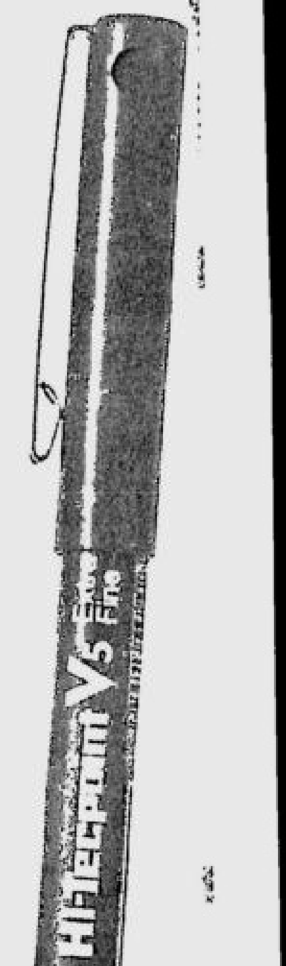

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RP terror watch gets nearer Indonesia

GLAN, SARANGANI—THE Philippine Navy has tightened maritime security in what is considered the country's southernmost gateway to Indonesia.

Rear Adm. George Uy, chief of Naval Staff, made the pronouncement during the activation of its naval detachment based at the port here last Friday.

Uy said aside from strengthening maritime security, the opening of a naval detachment in the area was also designed to closely watch illegal fishermen, pirates and illegal aliens.

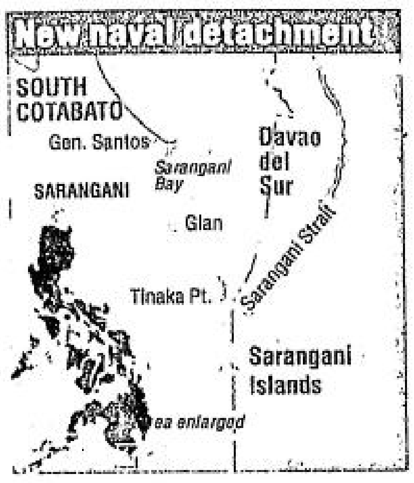
The Navy official said the vibrant maritime trade here makes it necessary to establish a naval detachment.

"We are looking forward (to making sure) that piracy, illegal fishing, terrorism and the entry of illegal aliens would be checked with the opening of a naval detachment here," Uy said.

Uy said that, this time, Navy boats will be closely watching the Sarangani Strait, a vital route used by maritime vessels heading for Sarangani province and General Santos City.

Glan town is just about four hours by boat from the northern provinces of Indonesia.

Uy lauded Gov. Miguel Dominguez and Glan Mayor Enrique Yap Jr. for helping the Navy "strengthen ports in places where they are needed."



THE NEW Philippine Navy detachment is just about four hours from Indonesia, where illegal migrants, and suspected members of the Jemaah Islamiyah are believed to originate.

The Glan detachment is under the operational control of the naval forces in Eastern Mindanao based in Davao City.

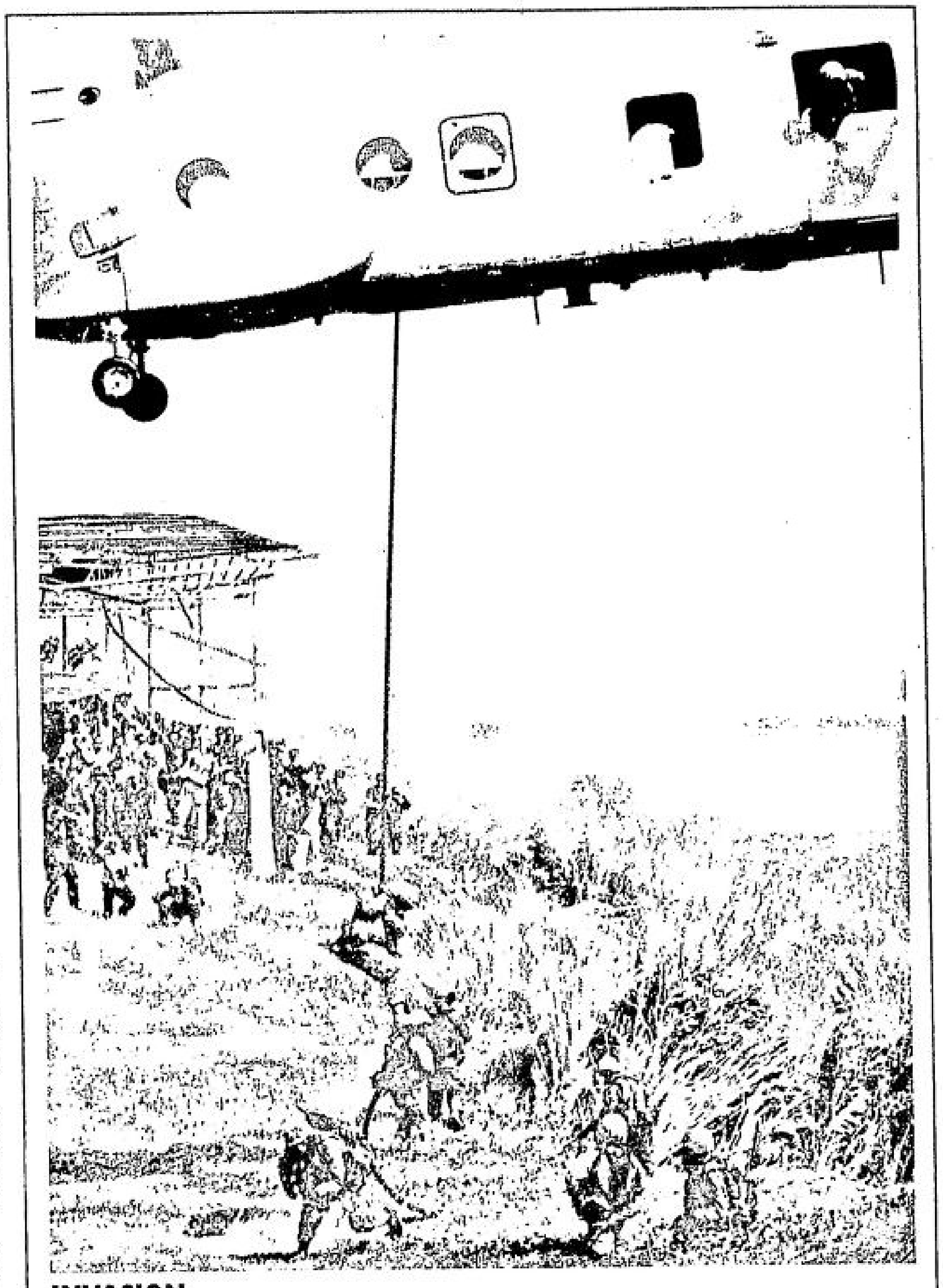
It also has the task of monitoring the passage of sea vessels coming in and out of the Sarangani Bay.

"(The) Glan naval detachment serves as a base of a potent team of naval experts. From this day onward, this naval detachment (will) now house a team of highly competent sailors to set off a series of naval operations," Uy said.

The naval detachment at the Glan Port backs up the naval coast watch station set up in Tinaka Point, also in Glan.

Established last June, the P5-million modern naval facility in Tinaka Point in Barangay Batulaki is vital in monitoring the high seas in this part of the region. It has a modern radar system and two stand-by generators. It is manned by Navy personnel and guarded by the Marines.

Uy further revealed the detachment would have a "special operation personnel" and will serve as a port for Navy ships. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



INVASION

American soldiers rappel down a Chinook helicopter during military exercises with Filipino troopers in Ternate, Cavite last month. The presence of US soldiers in exercises such as this has been put in the limelight following the rape allegedly by American soldiers of a college student in Subic.

JOEL NITO/AFP

Coast Guard steps up security in Cebu ports

CEBU CITY—THE PHILIPPINE COAST Guard (PCG) has stepped up security at port areas and vessels here following the arrest of two brothers who were allegedly caught carrying chemicals initially suspected to be ingredients in the manufacture of explosives.

Commodore Arthur Liwag, PCG-Central and Eastern Visayas district commander, said more sea marshals have been deployed to secure ports and vessels.

The shipping companies also stepped up security by detailing more bomb-sniffing K-9 dogs at port terminals, he added.

"Cebu is generally peaceful … and the authorities are in full control of the exits and approach areas but we could not discount any possibility that some people may disrupt peace and order," he said.

The brothers were arrested aboard SuperFerry 2 on Saturday night after they were allegedly found carrying chemicals, which authorities said were to be used for explosives.

Edito Bobila, 39 and younger brother Daniel, 30 were detained at the police station in Dumaguete after illegal possession of chemical charges were filed against them at the city prosecutor's office.

Edito, however, denied they owned the substance and maintained that Daniel was mentally ill and was wondering around the ship's restricted area when arrested.

He denied they were terrorists, saying they were on their way to Barangay Kasabalan, Sibugay, Zambonga del Sur to take his brother home.

Edito said his brother was mentally ill but nobody could take care of Daniel because his wife and their three kids left him.

The brothers boarded SuperFerry 2 in Manila, which made a short stopover in Cebu. It sailed to Dumaguete for another stopover before proceeding to Dipolog City, its final destination.

While the ship was sailing to Dumaguete on Saturday night, SuperFerry 2 crew members spotted the brothers through a security monitor entering the forward compartment of the ship, a restricted area. *Jolene R. Bulambot and Romy G. Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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Negros safe from bird flu, say docs, execs

BACOLOD CITY—Officials gave assurances that there was no need to fear bird flu in Negros Occidental because there was no sign of the virus anywhere in the province.

They said there was no reason to fear eating chicken because there was no bird flu at all in the province.

"Our chicken industry, including game fowl, is negative of bird flu … It is safe to consume chickens raised in Negros Occidental," said Renante Decena, provincial veterinarian.

Decena said he received a call from a Bacolod caterer on a client that canceled orders because of the bird flu scare.

He said irresponsible sending of text messages on the supposed presence of bird flu in Negros Occidental led to the scare.

Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon and Escalante Mayor Santiago Barcelona also denied that a migratory bird in Escalante was tested positive for bird flu.

The governor asked people to avoid spreading unverified text messages that could cause panic and hurt the poultry industry of the province.

Dr. Reynalda de la Peña, head of the National Avian Influenza Task Force for Visayas, said the team found no sign of bird flu anywhere in the province. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Typhoid calamity town

CEBU CITY—The Borbon Municipal Council placed the town in a state of calamity after it was hit by a typhoid outbreak that killed two persons and afflicted almost 200 others. The state of calamity, issued on Oct. 28, would allow the municipal government to use a P2 million calamity fund. The outbreak of typhoid fever was blamed on contaminated water from open water wells and the local water system, reportedly due to the residents' lack of toilets. Vergara said town officials would pass an ordinance requiring all households to build water-sealed toilets to prevent another outbreak. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

2 wounded in clash

MAASIN CITY—A soldier and a communist rebel were wounded while two rebels were captured in an encounter near a cemetery in Barangay Maslog, Baybay, Leyte on All Souls' Day. Maj. Jose Lim, 43rd Infantry Battalion executive officer, said the unidentified soldier suffered bullet wounds in the right leg. The two alleged New People's Army members were Roberto Montilla, 21, of Hilongos town; and Eddie Opo, 28, of Mahaplag town. Lim said a rebel was seriously wounded and was brought by his comrades. ***Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau***

2 hurt in bus attack

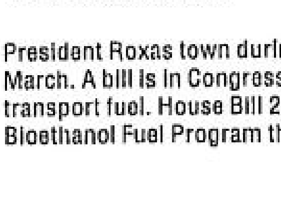
COTABATO CITY—Two persons were hurt when unidentified men fired at a bus in Pagagawan, Maguindanao on Monday night. The Weena Bus, with 40 passengers, was passing through an isolated portion of Pagagawan when gunmen fired automatic rifles, hitting the bus' windshields. Hurt were Edcel Perez and an unidentified woman. Bus driver Virgilio Suerto said he did not notice the gunmen but heard gunshots. Jun Adam, Weena Cotabato terminal manager, said the passengers were hit by shards of broken windows, not bullets. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Bicol art exhibit

SUPPORT THE ARTS!

LEGAZPI CITY—The Center for Bikol Arts Foundation (Cebika), a group of local artists, is sponsoring an exhibit of local artist George Vibar's works entitled "Fade to Black" that runs until the end of November at the lobby of the Capitol Building in Old Albay here. Lawyer Elmer Lanuzo, a Cebika trustee, said Cebika has kept the local art scene here alive for five years now since it was founded on Dec. 20, 2000. Since 2001, the group has been mounting an average of two exhibits a year of local visual artists' pieces to generate support from the public. ***Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau***

Shift to ethanol urged


MATAMIS NA SOLUSYON YAN SA FUEL CRISIS!

ROXAS CITY—The provincial board is urging sugarcane planters and millers in Capiz to venture into bioethanol production amid rising prices of fuel. In a resolution, the board said ethanol production would create more jobs, help the country reduce dependence on oil imports, stop a decline in sugar prices and increase farmers' income. Board member Jose Escolin Jr., the resolution's author, said the province has the potential because at least 5,000 tons of sugarcane were being milled daily at the province's lone sugar central in President Roxas town during milling season between November to March. A bill is in Congress seeking to require the use of bioethanol as transport fuel. House Bill 2583 seeks to establish the National Bioethanol Fuel Program that will require oil companies to use ethanol. ***Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Palace now looking at non-wage benefits

By Christine O. Avendaño, Philip C. Tubeza and Jerome Aning

AFTER SHELVING ITS PLAN TO push for a legislated wage increase, Malacañang is now looking at granting non-wage benefits and strengthening the regional wage boards to help workers ride out what it calls "current economic pressures."

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday said government officials had started holding discussions to determine what non-wage benefits could be given to minimum wage earners.

The non-wage benefits could include tax exemptions and transport benefits, said Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who is on her way home from Geneva, Switzerland.

President Macapagal-Arroyo retreated from her proposal for Congress to legislate an increase in the minimum wages because of warnings from her economic managers that any wage adjustment at this time would adversely affect the viability of businesses in the country.

The President had wanted the legislated increase granted to workers to help them cope with the 10-percent expanded value-added tax, which was implemented on Nov. 1.

Trade Secretary Peter Favila said on Monday that the President would instead ask Congress to ensure that businesses comply with the average 8-percent increase in wages granted by the regional wage boards in July.

At a news briefing, Bunye acknowledged that the President had decided to "go for a different approach" after consulting with business.

Bunye said the non-wage measures were in addition to the Palace support for a bill in Congress aimed at strengthening the regional wage boards.

The regional wage boards are authorized to set the minimum wage of workers but the current law only allows it to increase wages once a year. The last time a wage hike was granted by the wage boards was in July.

Win-win situation

"The important thing is that the President will go for a win-win situation ... by (taking into) consideration the plight of workers as well as the need to ensure stability and viability of business," he said.

The President's turnaround did not sit well with militant lawmakers.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño called Ms Arroyo a "liar" and a "traitor," who succumbed to pressure from big business.

"President Macapagal-Arroyo could be nominated for the Guinness Book of World Records as the head of state who had retracted a policy statement the fastest," Casiño said.

He said the President could only bully street protesters but could not stand her ground in front of big businesses "most of which are her campaign financiers."

"It is condemnable that the President callously made a ploy to hoodwink workers into believing that a wage increase will be granted to mitigate the effects of the expanded VAT," he said.

Pacify public

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said Ms Arroyo had promised legislated wage increase to pacify the public after the expanded VAT's implementation, which he claimed "sent prices of basic commodities soaring higher."

"It would've been foolish to believe even for only a moment that Macapagal-Arroyo would go against the wishes of big businesses and employers whose support she is desperate to keep for her beleaguered presidency," he said.

For his part, Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo said labor groups would hold daily pickets outside the House of Representatives until Congress acted favorably on the bills seeking to adjust wages.

He said there was a strong basis for a significantly higher legislated living wage because of the high inflation rate.

Improve productivity

While the party-list groups assailed the President's turnaround, the business sector in Cebu welcomed the President's move.

"The President made the right decision when she backtracked on her decision and instead let the wage board decide on that," said Carlos Co, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) vice president for the Visayas.

He said the business sector in Cebu was happy because the President had realized the negative impact of a legislated wage hike on businesses.

Co said a legislated wage adjustment would force some companies to either lay off workers or close shop because they could not sustain the high cost of operation.

"I think the workers can understand. At this time, we should first improve productivity, then the increase of salary and other incentives will follow," he said.

Balance of interests

"The stand of the President now is a balance of the interest of labor and interest of management," he said.

Various government agencies are taking part in the talks to determine the non-wage benefits, according to Sto. Tomas.

Sto. Tomas said the labor, trade, finance, budget and agriculture departments, and the National Economic Development Authority would be giving inputs on this matter.

The Department of Labor and Employment has set up a dialogue between labor and employers' groups, and possibly lawmakers to discuss workers' demands.

Undersecretary for Employment Danilo Cruz, acting labor chief, said that within a week, the labor department would come out with recommendations for either a wage raise or its alternatives.

The recommendations would be forwarded to the National Wages and Productivity Commission (NWPC), which has the duty to determine if there are enough reasons to raise the wages. Without the commission's go-signal, the regional tripartite wages and productivity boards cannot increase wages.

Cruz said part of the discussion would be on whether the expanded VAT's effects would necessitate a wage increase. He noted that the projected effects of VAT had already been taken into account when the wage boards raised wages and cost-of-living allowances in June and July.

EVAT impact

But he said the NWPC, which also monitors consumer prices and the status of workers' purchasing power, would not hesitate to rule the existence of a supervening event if the effects of VAT were great.

"We wanted an honest-to-goodness assessment of the impact of E-VAT, considering that it was just implemented last Nov. 1," he said.

The discussions will not be limited to wage hike. Other proposals like tax exemptions, which is being pushed by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, will also be tackled, according to Cruz. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Peso forecast: Sizzling

From page A1

more than just hope," UBS said. "The beginning of the implementation of the VAT is big news for the fiscal dynamics in 2006 and beyond."

Although the expanded VAT would only add P5 billion to government coffers this year, UBS said the impact of the tax would be felt in its first full year of implementation next year when expected revenue would rise 11 percent, equivalent to 1.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

"We argued that this bill, together with a series of increases in power tariffs applied earlier, was sufficient to lower the Philippine budget and debt-to-GDP ratios. The latter had increased precipitously since the mid-1990s, resulting in repeated downgrades of the sovereign rating and presenting a key overhang for Philippine asset markets," UBS said.

Next test

The investment bank said the next test would come in two months when President Macapagal-Arroyo would decide whether to increase the VAT rate from 10 percent to 12 percent under a provision of the VAT law.

"But, the fact that the administration managed to pull the implementation of the first part of the bill off the ground, in our view, should bode well for the rise in the VAT rate," UBS said.

By hurdling legal and legislative obstacles in putting in place the expanded VAT, the government can slash its budget deficit by 25 percent through spending cuts and improved tax revenue, the Swiss bank said.

"We believe the combination of a sharply higher primary surplus, negative real interest rates, and a strong exchange rate will cut the debt-to-GDP ratio by 8 percentage points to 91 percent," it said.

Rein in budget deficit

While a 10-percent VAT would be enough to rein in the budget deficit and keep the debt levels on a "gradual, declining path," the bank said the President would still need to raise the VAT rate to allow the government to increase capital spending and create a buffer should revenue collections fall below expectations.

"There is, of course, still a risk that implementation could once again be reversed, and that the VAT rate will not be hiked to 12 percent in January.

However, the actual implementation is already more than we had dared to hope for following the series of disappointments over the course of the past six months. And, it is enough for us to fundamentally change our view on exchange and interest rates," UBS said.

A stronger fiscal position will firm up the country's balance of payments position and further lead to currency appreciation and lower bond yields, according to the bank.

Fuel prices reduced ...

From page A1

plementing its price rollback at 12:01 a.m. Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., Total (Philippines) Corp., Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. all adjusted their prices at 6 a.m.

Flying V will be adjusting its prices by the same levels at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

All price adjustments are inclusive of the expanded value-added tax (VAT).

According to the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude has dropped to a November average of $53.65 a barrel from the $53.96-a-barrel average posted in October.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products has likewise declined to $63.81 a barrel in the first seven days of the month from $69.10 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel also went down to a Nov. 1-7 average of $66.34 a barrel from the October average of $76.08 a barrel.

Cooking gas price up

While motorists will get some relief with the price rollback, households will have to bear another burden as Petron, Shell, Caltex and Total hike their cooking gas prices by P1 a kilogram, VAT exclusive.

This is due to the still increasing international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas, which has gone up to $549 per metric ton (MT) this month from $519 per MT in October.

With the price reductions, premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P37.79 and P38.75 a liter, diesel at between P31.46 and P32.76 a liter, kerosene at between P31.58 and P35.70 a liter, and LPG at between P478.74 and P546.41 per 11-kg cylinder.

US landmark case ...

From page A1

that are then used to launch destructive attacks on servers or send huge quantities of spam, or unwanted e-mail.

Ancheta then charged "spammers" for spreading their dubious wares over his hijacked network, prosecutors said. In addition to sending spam, the bot networks can also be used to launch attacks on servers that cause them to crash.

This is the first prosecution of this kind in the United States, according to the US Attorney's Office.

Forfeiture

"Ancheta is charged with two counts of conspiracy, two counts of attempted transmission of code to a protected computer, two counts of transmission of code to a government computer, five counts of accessing a protected computer to commit fraud and five counts of money laundering," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement.

"Count 17 of the indictment seeks the forfeiture of more than $60,000 in cash, a BMW automobile and computer equipment that the indictment alleges are the proceeds and instrumentalities of Ancheta's illegal activity," the statement said.

If convicted on all 17 federal charges, Ancheta faces up to 50 years in prison.

Public Affairs Officer Thom Mrozek in an e-mail to INQ7.net confirmed a Los Angeles Times report on Nov. 4 that Ancheta, who was arrested by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents last week, is a Filipino-American.

"There is some question as to his history. Some information indicates that he was born in the Philippines and later became a US citizen. However, other information contradicts that," Mrozek said. He said he expected to have more information on this.

Heartbroken aunt

In a separate e-mail, Ancheta's aunt, Sharon Gregorio, said Ancheta came to the United States when he was 5 years old and was originally from Santiago City, Isabela.

"He is my deceased brother's son and we basically are very close. It is very hard for me to be talking about him because he's dear to me. I grew up with him, I took care of him when he was still little and it just breaks my heart how he has to go through this ordeal," Gregorio said. "We're still stunned. We can't believe it. We are just devastated by what happened."

Ancheta allegedly offered his botnets—a network of computers—for sale on the Internet relay chat channel #botz4sale.

National defense

"Ancheta caused the surreptitious installation of adware on approximately 400,000 compromised computers. Ancheta used the advertising affiliate proceeds he earned to pay for, among other things, the multiple servers used to conduct his schemes," the US Attorney's Office said in a statement.

"Ancheta used programs powerful enough to cause the infection of computers at the Weapons Division of the US Naval Air Warfare Center in China Lake, as well as computers belonging to the Defense Information Systems Agency, a component of the US Department of Defense," the statement said.

"Both networks are used exclusively by the federal government in furtherance of national defense," it said.

A Web search indicated that resili3nt and irc.shk-security.net, the IRC network Ancheta allegedly set up, have been well known in the online community for years, including sites devoted to IRC and cracking.

According to the 52-page indictment, an unindicted conspirator in the botmaster case allegedly resides in Boca Raton, Florida, who uses the nickname "SoBe." *With AFP*

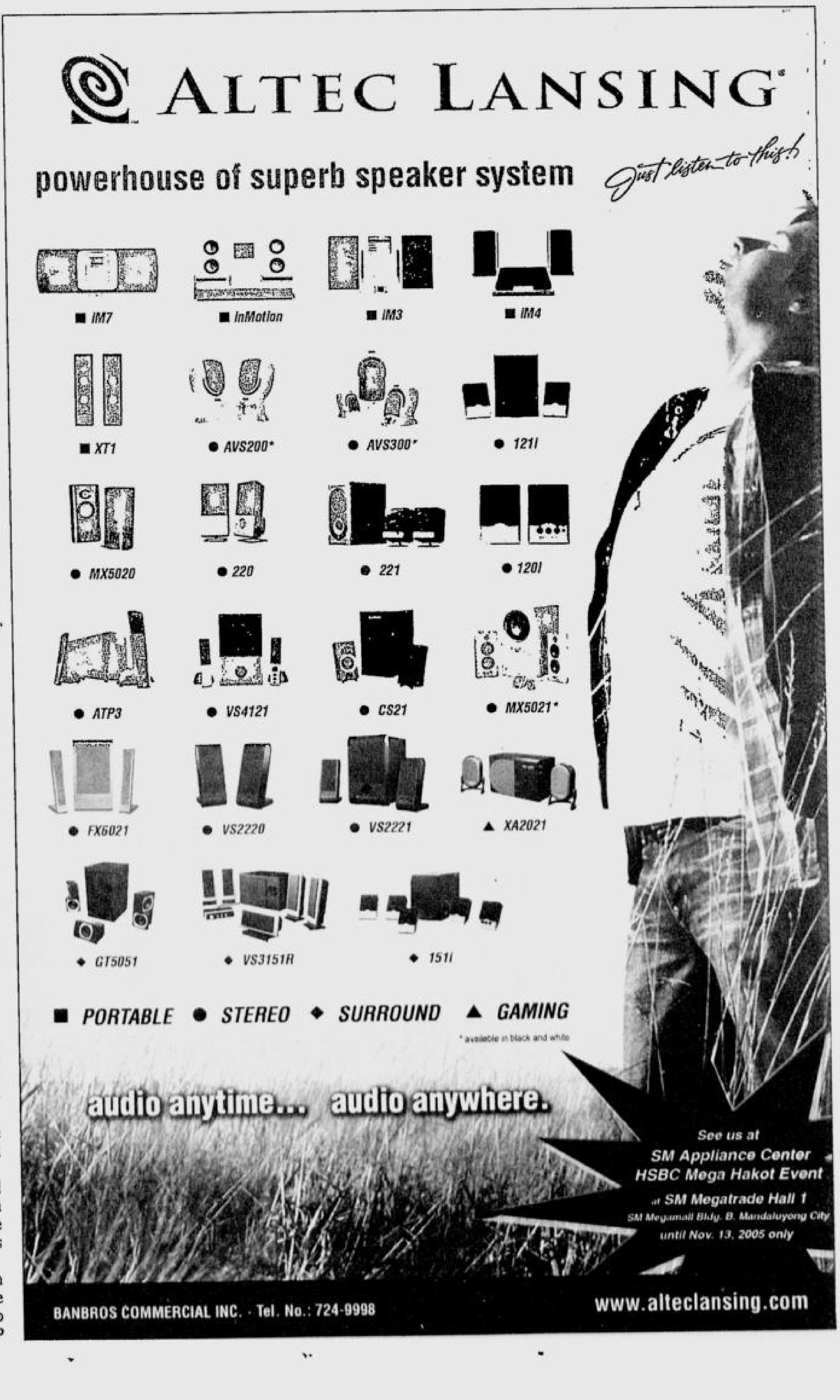
IN THE KNOW

Bot—short for robot, is a computer program that simulates human activity or acts as an agent for a user or another computer program.

Botnet—also known as zombie army, is a network of computers that, unknown to their owners, have been taken over by a hacker and programmed to send transmissions to other computers over the Internet.

Botmaster—controls a botnet with a single command, for instance, through an IRC site.

Trojan horse—a malicious code hidden inside another apparently harmless computer program that is let loose into a network of computers.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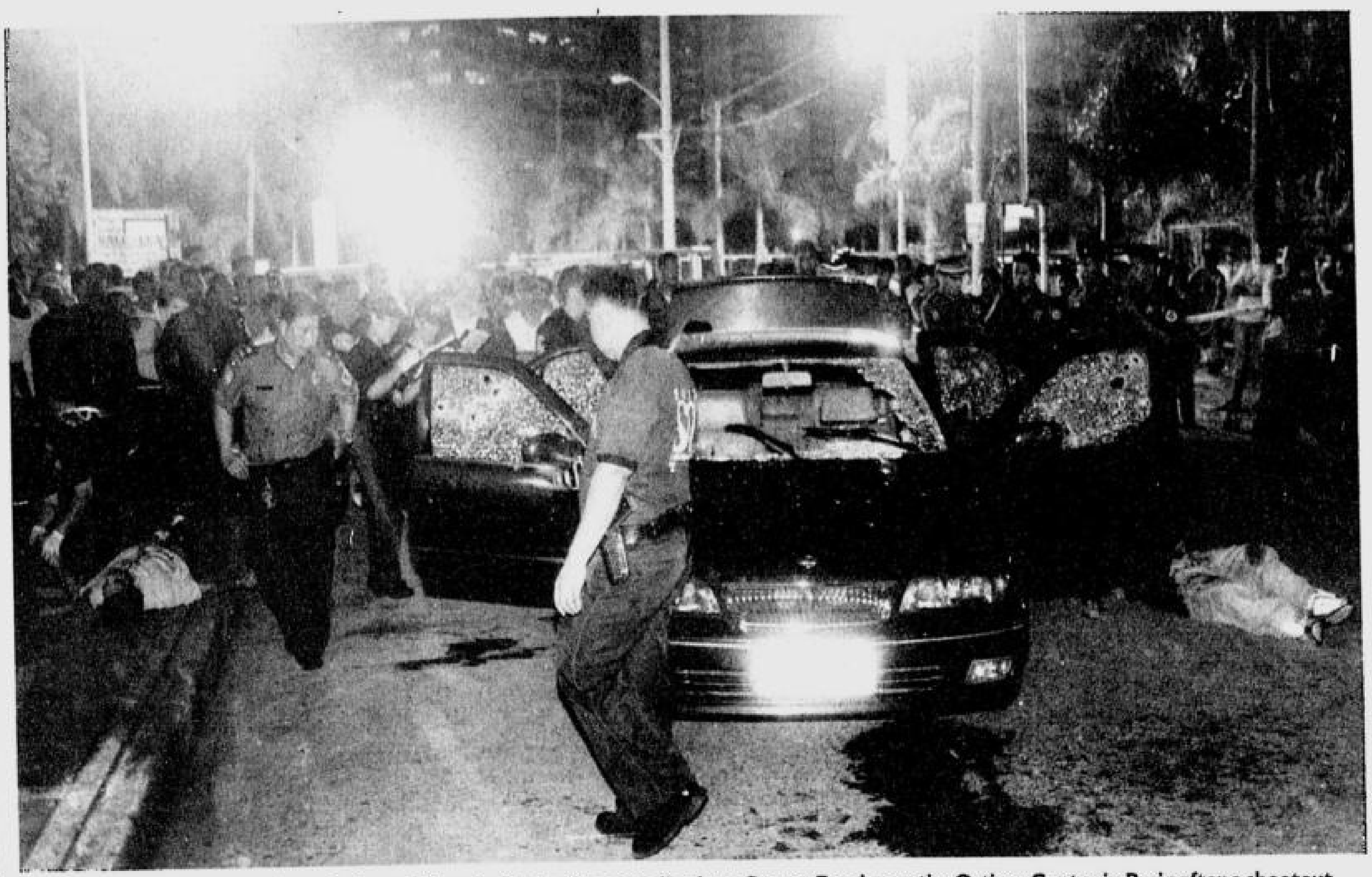
3 killed in Pasig City shootout

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr., Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora



THE BODIES of Bryan Anthony Dulay and Francis Xavier Manzano lie along Garnet Road near the Ortigas Center in Pasig after a shootout with police.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

THREE MEN WERE KILLED AFter an alleged shootout with operatives of the national police Traffic Management Group (TMG) inside the busy Ortigas Center in Pasig City on Monday night.

Bryan Anthony Dulay, 28, and Francis Xavier Manzano, 26, died of several gunshot wounds. The driver of the maroon Nissan Exalta, who was also killed, was identified by police later as Anton Cu.

TMG officials claimed the three were suspected car thieves who had been under surveillance for a week.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes was quick to say the incident was not a rubout.

Senior Insp. Samson Belmonte was shot in the right leg during the encounter, police said. The officer was later given the Medalya ng Sugatang Magiting, according to Reyes.

Belmonte's group was in Pasig Monday night after being tipped off that suspected car thieves were in the area, Pasig City Police Chief Raul Medina said.

The team chanced upon the maroon Exalta on Julia Vargas Avenue about 11 p.m. with a suspicious license plate.

Sr. Inspector Henry Cerdon reportedly tried to flag down the vehicle but instead of stopping, it sped away. Operatives caught up with the men on F. Ortigas Jr. Street.

The suspects allegedly opened fire prompting operatives, armed with rifles and shotguns, to return fire.

Police said they recovered an Ingram pistol, a 9mm handgun, ammunition, two license plates and a sachet of suspected shabu inside the Exalta.

Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan, TMG head, said those killed were remaining members of the Valle Verde Gang, a group involved in car robberies in the late 1990s and in early 2001, and whose members allegedly came from the posh Valle Verde area in Pasig.

But Angcanan said the slain suspects were from Quezon City. Police said Dulay was from Scout Fernandez while Manzano reportedly resided in the plush La Vista subdivision.

Six members of the group met in a popular night spot in Ortigas Center before the shootout, the official said.

An informant told police about the meeting and a team from TMG's Task Force Limbas was dispatched to go after the suspects.

Angcanan said they traced the car to a rental company, which said it was rented by Dulay, one of those killed.

Reporters tried to talk to relatives of Dulay and Manzano when they showed up to identify the slain men, but they refused to grant interviews.

Meanwhile, Reyes announced the government had intensified its campaign against vehicle theft.

He said car thieves and carjackers would not be able to escape the law.

Reyes lauded the operatives of the PNP-TMG involved in a shootout with three suspected car thieves in Ortigas.

At the same time, he called on the public to help and support the PNP and other law enforcement agencies in the fight against criminality.

Vendors lose jobs, homes

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE RECENT VIOLENT DEMOLITION of stalls in a public market in Pasig City has left many vendors jobless and homeless.

The demolition injured scores of vendors, sympathizers, policemen and wreckers.

Security guards posted at the narrow entrance to the market told the INQUIRER vendors could continue doing business but vendor Gertrudes Marquez, 43, said they could not continue selling because buyers could not get in.

Marquez and her family also lived in the property.

All entry points, save for a narrow entrance on Caruncho Avenue in Barangay Palatiw, of the 3,176-sq.-m. market had been covered with iron sheets.

Though guards said they would let buyers in, they did not allow the INQUIRER to interview vendors who were inside.

A group of vendors are claiming rights over the property that was bought in 1997 by a company belonging to the family of former agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap.

Several cases are still pending in court.

Marquez said, "I am a voter in this city. Our city government should be protecting us."

Mayor Vicente Eusebio has kept mum about the incident.

The property was also the subject of a tax evasion case filed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue against DHY Realty and Development.

Jaylo's men to face more charges; Complainants now total 30

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE CHARGES WILL BE FILED by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) against agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Force (PAIRTF) as more complainants have come forward.

"We now have a total of 30 complainants and counting," NBI Intelligence Special Operations Division (ISOD) chief Allan Contado said.

Complaints

Contado added that owners of travel agencies also called him to complain about PAIRTF's alleged illegal activities.

"We are just collating the statements of the new complainants and other documents related to the cases," Contado said. He added that the operatives would face additional robbery/extortion and illegal arrest charges.

The NBI raided the PAIRTF's Manila office last Friday that led to the arrest of eight more of its operatives. Arrested were Antonio Aviermo Jr., Gerardo Quigol, Redante Cortez, Noy Jaylo, Fernando Jardin Jr., Edgar Ignacio, Abelardo de Jesus and Ernesto Nicomedes.

NBI Special Task Force (STF) chief Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda earlier said they were preparing charges against 10 other PAIRTF "intelligence officers" for alleged extortion.

11 more

The bureau also filed several charges against four policemen and seven intelligence officers arrested in an entrapment operation conducted by agents of the NBI's STF and ISOD last month.

Reynaldo Jaylo, former PAIRTF chief and now director of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, was also charged earlier with unauthorized hiring of intelligence officers.

He is now undergoing preliminary investigation for the additional charges of qualified bribery and robbery/extortion charges.

'Enercops' fielded in QC

By DJ Yap

QUEZON CITY HAS FIELDED its own version of the Department of Energy's "Enercops" to implement power-saving measures at City Hall.

Citing the need for "small sacrifices" to generate savings, the city government announced new cost-cutting measures particularly in the City Hall compound in response to rising expenses due mainly to higher fuel costs.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. assigned one Enercop in each department or office to make sure measures to reduce electricity, water and telephone bills were taken.

He said city officials and workers should set an example for Quezon residents by helping the city cut costs.

Enercops have been exercising their "police powers" since last month, city public affairs and information chief Greg Banacia said.

General services office chief Rolando Montiel said the city could reduce power, water and communication costs by 20 percent without disrupting basic services.

Austerity measures include partial shut-off of lights, refrigerators, water supply and other devices at noontime.

Not all elevators operate during lunch break.

Telephones, computers and Internet services shall be exclusively for office use. The city government is also having its international direct dial service deactivated.

City personnel officer Marlene Aguilar said they would discourage unnecessary local or foreign trips and suspend overtime work, among others.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Metro model for tsunami workshop

By Volt Contreras

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, a strong earthquake (magnitude 7.9) stirs the Manila Trench, releasing shock waves from beneath the South China Sea. You felt the shock as you were taking in the sights and sounds at the Baywalk, the al fresco dining strip along Roxas Boulevard.

Don't wait for the *sisig* you ordered or for the folk singer to finish his set. You have only an hour to seek higher ground or be swept away by four-meter high waves!

This is a tsunami impact "model" for Manila—one example of several disaster scenarios deduced by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) in a bid to make the most accurate and, hopefully, lifesaving assessment of our own exposure to giant killer waves.

The data analysis leading to these scenarios is called tsunami numerical modeling, the subject of a 10-day international workshop hosted by Phivolcs in Quezon City that opened yesterday.

"We cannot predict earthquakes but we can predict the impact," Phivolcs Director Rene Solidum told reporters.

With grim images from the Dec. 26, 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami still vivid, Solidum said data acquired through tsunami modeling is crucial in devising early-warning procedures and evacuation plans, especially for coastal communities.

From a model, which can be done on a per-area basis, the public may learn the expected "arrival time" of a tsunami after an earthquake of certain strength, apart from most vulnerable locations, the estimated height of the waves upon hitting the coast, and the extent of the flooding.

According to Solidum, a sample model Phivolcs prepared for the City of Manila gives the following cause-and-effect equation:

If an earthquake occurs somewhere along the Manila Trench, a magnitude of 7.9 is enough to generate a wall of water as tall as two to four meters by the time it enters Manila Bay.

The first wave is expected to crash on land in about "one hour" from the time of the quake, and can cause devastation at the North and South Harbors, recreational and commercial strips facing Manila Bay, and squatter colonies lining the coast.

A tsunami originating from the South China Sea is actually expected to lose considerable speed by the time it enters the bay, thanks to the bay's narrow opening formed between the Bataan peninsula and Cavite province, Solidum explained.

The last recorded tsunami to hit Manila was caused by a magnitude 6.5 temblor that struck at 7:25 p.m. on June 3, 1863.

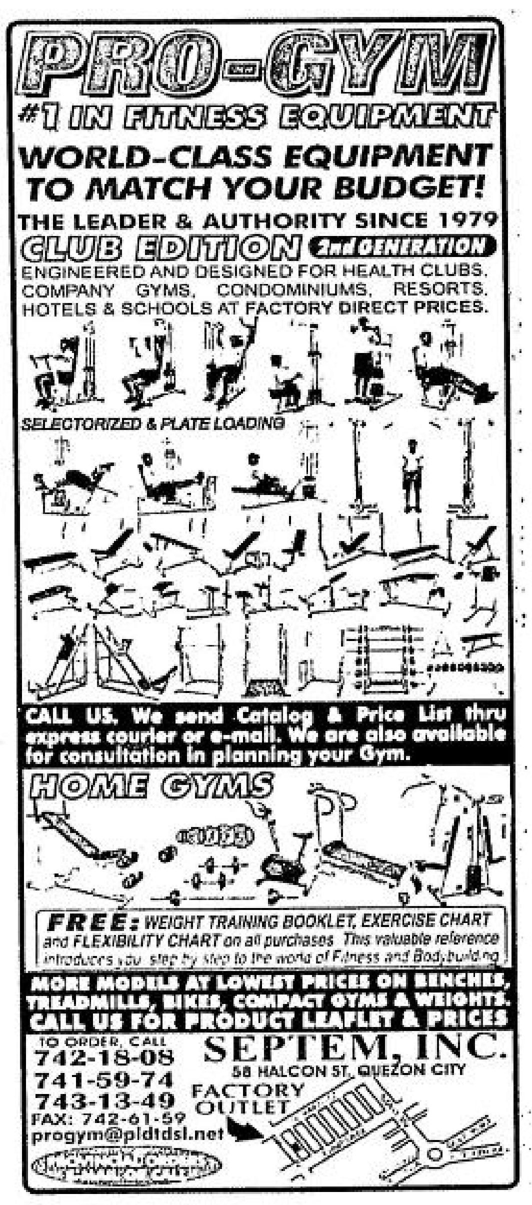
Fortunately, the sea rose merely by less than a meter and nobody was reported killed, the Phivolcs director said.

The agency has also come up with a tsunami model for Infanta, Real and Nakar, coastal towns of Quezon province facing the Pacific Ocean.

The Phivolcs' target is to have models covering the entire Philippine coastline.

The workshop runs until Nov. 19, with the cooperation of the International Tsunami Information Center in Hawaii.

Participants came from developing countries in the Southeast Asia, Pacific, Indian Ocean regions, namely China, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and the Philippines.



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FACTORY OUTLET

Makati cuts yule trimmings for gift-giving project

By Tarra V. Quismundo

EVEN THE COUNTRY'S FInancial capital is making sacrifices in the name of austerity and charity this Christmas season.

Holiday colors that lit up the skies and streets of Makati City last year would no longer be seen this December, as the city government has decided to replace these with a gift-giving project for poor families.

City Hall announced yesterday that Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay canceled this week its street Christmas lighting project, an annual holiday activity, and the New Year's Eve Countdown.

"Admittedly, the streets of Makati will not be as bright as in previous years. But with this gesture, we hope we will brighten the homes of poor families who are suffering the most from the economic crisis," Binay said in a statement.

The mayor's decision came after the city's finance experts studied the effects of the recent implementation of the value-added tax (VAT) on local projects and events.

"The mayor asked us to decide whether or not these activities remain relevant and meaningful to the lives of the poor. It was agreed that much more needs to be done," said City Administrator Nicanor Santiago Jr. in a statement.

The Makati Festivals Foundation, the local government body that organized the canceled holiday events, would thus be diverting the allocated P18 million fund for grocery items.

City Hall said the local fund would be matched by the city's partner private firms, including Ayala Land, Rockwell Land, and the Makati Commercial Estate Association, an organization of building owners.

Speedy proceedings sought

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TO SPEED UP PROCEEDINGS for the kidnap-for-ransom case against actor and former Quezon City Rep. Dennis Roldan, the Pasig City Regional Trial Court is asking the prosecution to present at least three witnesses every hearing day.

The prosecution had promised to present two witnesses every hearing, but there were sessions when the prosecution presented just one witness.

State Prosecutor Philip Dela Cruz told the INQUIRER yesterday they were ready to comply with the request of the court.

Roldan and six others are accused of kidnapping a Filipino-Chinese boy in February. They allegedly asked for more than P250 million in ransom at the start of negotiations.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Gumabao, has consistently denied he masterminded the kidnapping.

The prosecution has presented six witnesses since the trial began in August, and will be presenting six more in the next two hearings to oppose the motion for bail Roldan had filed at the start of the trial.

Among the six witnesses being lined up are the parents of the victim.

The prosecution is also expected to present cassette tapes of alleged recorded phone negotiations for the ransom between the parents and the alleged kidnappers.

In an earlier interview, suspect turned state witness Alberto Pagdanganan said Roldan himself had talked to the family of the kidnapped boy during the negotiations.

After the prosecution, the defense will also present their witnesses to support Roldan's motion for bail.

In a hearing yesterday, the prosecution presented Senior Insp. Igmedio Bernaldez of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer), who corroborated earlier testimonies of other Pacer operatives who had also conducted surveillance operations on Roldan and his co-accused.

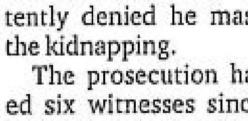
In his testimony, Bernaldez said he saw Roldan, his alleged girlfriend Suzette Wang (who remains at large), Pagdanganan and Octavio Garces enter a bar in Quezon City on Feb. 19, hours before the kidnap victim was rescued. The bar is reportedly owned by Roldan.

The prosecution said his testimony confirmed that Roldan and his co-accused had been meeting regularly during the kidnapping.

Some Pacer operatives had earlier testified seeing Roldan and the other accused in the safe houses where the group allegedly brought the kidnap victim.

METROBRIEFS

Foul weather



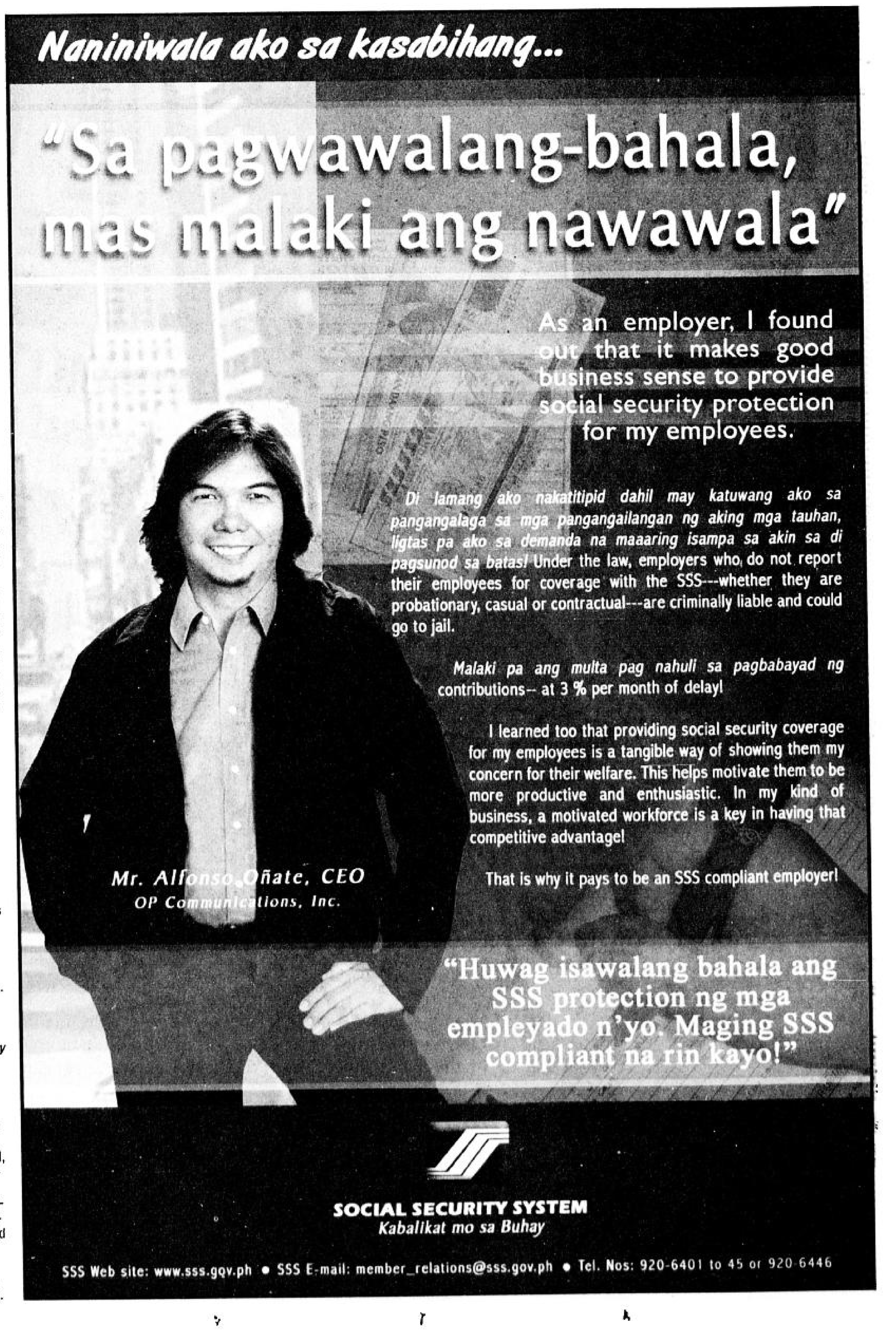
STUDENTS of the University of Sto. Tomas felt the need to cover their noses as they passed through España Street in Manila yesterday morning. This was after the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) opened the floodgates in the area to clean the Quiapo pumping station around 4 a.m. The students, as well as some residents living near the school, claimed they were confronted by a disgusting smell and the sight of thick blackish fluid, which rose to about 10 cm high. Particularly affected was the area between Lacson and P. Noval Streets, said Lauro Sigwa, district engineer of District 4. He added, however, that the water had gone down when they checked the area around 7 a.m. An MMDA insider, on the other hand, said the cleaning of the pumping station was part of their regular work. Yesterday's operation, however, coincided with the occurrence of high tide, he said. *Tina G. Santos*

A phone call away

INMATES sent to penal colonies are now one phone call away from their families in Metro Manila. And their families would not have to spend a single centavo for the call. To mark its centennial founding anniversary yesterday, the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) launched a free call center at the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) grounds for families of detainees sent to penal farms in Zamboanga, Leyte, Mindoro, Palawan and Davao. The call center, supported by BuCor's own telephone line, has five booths set up near the entrance of the NBP. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

EU-DAP confab

THE DELEGATION of the European Commission and the Development Academy of the Philippines will hold the EU-DAP LeGoV Conference on November 9-11 at the Heritage Hotel, Roxas Blvd., Manila. Local eGovernment Ventures Conference 2005 aims to fast track the access of information and communication technology by local governments. Interested parties may call Ellen Samson at 0928-2714441 or Cris Bobis at 0921-9778507. Or call DAP at 631-2147, 631-0921, 631-0930 loc. 154.



Naniniwala ako sa kasabihang...
"Sa pagwawalang-bahala, mas malaki ang nawawala"

As an employer, I found out that it makes good business sense to provide social security protection for my employees.

Di lamang ako nakatitipid dahil may katuwang ako sa pangangalaga sa mga pangangailangan ng aking mga tauhan, ligtas pa ako sa demanda na maaaring isampa sa akin sa di pagsunod sa batas! Under the law, employers who do not report their employees for coverage with the SSS---whether they are probationary, casual or contractual---are criminally liable and could go to jail.

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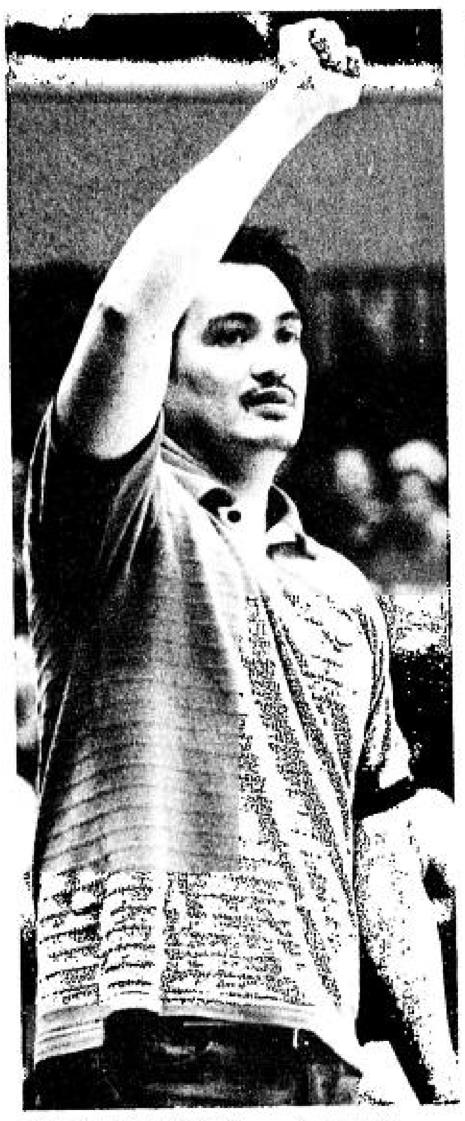
GUILTY OR NOT: Franz Pumaren stands on shaky ground. PDI PHOTO

UAAP BOARD MEET

3 more DLSU officials quit; alumni want coaches' heads

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE EXODUS OF KEY LA SALLE OFFICIALS CONTINUES in the wake of the eligibility scandal.

Just two days after Green Archers manager Terry Capistrano called it quits, three top La Salle officials followed suit to give the "administration a free hand" in solving the turmoil that rocked the university.

La Salle sports development director Br. Bobby Casingal, sports development director for internal affairs Danny Jose and university registrar Edwin Santiago formally submitted their resignation Saturday to university president Br. Armin Luistro and executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco.

Quebengco, however, is out of the country and the two top executives' decision on their resignation will be known next week.

Capistrano submitted his resignation last Thursday, noting that as the "acknowledged head of the basketball team," he would like to assume "full responsibility for the situation."

These developments came as the UAAP board convenes today to tackle the case for the first time since La Salle admitted last Oct. 11 that it has unknowingly fielded an ineligible player—later identified as Mark Benitez—in the last three years.

La Salle admitted a week later that aside from Benitez, Tim Gatchalian was also found ineligible. Gatchalian played for the Archers for two seasons before getting cut from the team this year.

As a result, the university voluntarily offered to return its 2004 championship trophy.

Several La Salle alumni, led by Hall of Famers Tommy Manotoc, Kurt Bachmann and Bert Garcia, will be calling for the resignation of coach Franz Pumaren and his staff in an alumni gathering on Nov. 12, 2 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Pumaren left for Hawaii with the Archers yesterday to compete in the 2005 Asia Pacific Basketball Classic set Nov. 9 to 12.

Casingal, Jose and Santiago "took their cue" to step down from the open letter Quebengco released to the La Salle academic community last Thursday.

In the statement, Quebengco noted that the school is "seriously considering" to file a voluntary leave of absence from the UAAP in order "to institute internal reforms."

Quebengco added that La Salle has already taken steps for reform, including "changes in admission policies," particularly with the "submission of hand carried documents."

Other actions taken to put closure on the case include the formation of a committee to recommend changes in the university's "sports policy and personnel, including the coaching staff."

Fiba shoots down POC plan on SEAG caging A25

Bubbles on the oval A26

18 days to go
Basta Pinoy. Posible.
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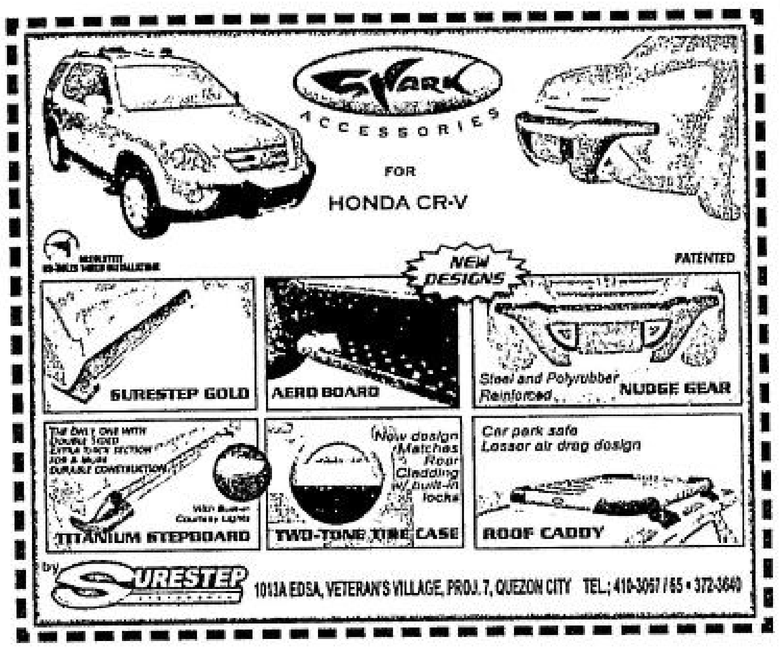
Globe

Wade powers Heat; Spurs clip Bulls A26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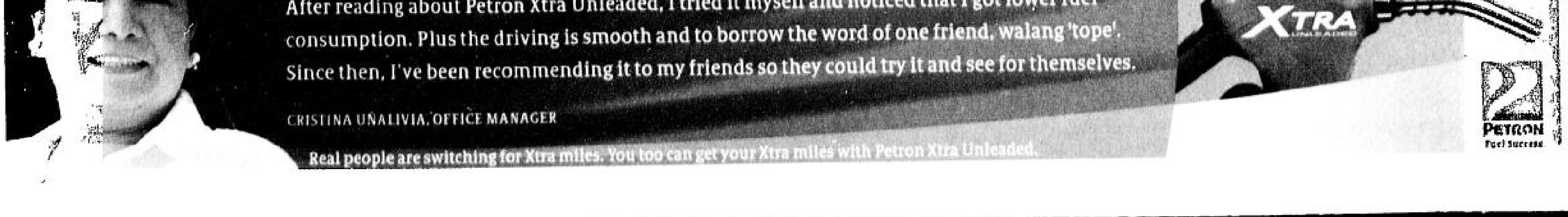
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Giants eye solo lead vs revitalized Tigers

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

PAUL Artadi of Purefoods drives past Ato Morano of Coca-Cola.

PUREFOODS CHUNKEE TRIES TO STRENGTHEN ITS HOLD OF THE lead when the Giants meet the in-form Coca-Cola Tigers today in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Rafi Reavis was the missing link Coca-Cola needed to check a four-game skid as he gave the Tigers added firepower in routing the Red Bull Barako, 82-64, in a provincial game in Tacloban City last Saturday.

"He (Reavis) can bring rebounds and energy to Coke, just like what (Eric) Menk does to Ginebra," said Purefoods Chunkee coach Ryan Gregorio after the Giants grabbed the lead from the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

Reavis scored 12 points and grabbed nine rebounds against the Barako, his first game after the league lifted his suspension at the start of the season.

That win put Gregorio and the Giants back in the driver's seat with a 6-2 record, in a tie with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals who walloped the Alaska Aces, 101-79, last Sunday.

"We're the only ones who believe that we can be in this situation," said Gregorio. "We just want to keep it up and compete."

After recovering from a six-point output against the Phone Pals, Marquin Chandler sets out again to prove that that forgettable game was a fluke.

James Yap, Kerby Raymundo, Roger Yap and rookie Jondan Salvador also face a reinvigorated Coca-Cola crew starring Ali Peek, Dennis Miranda, John Arigo, Poch Juinio and Will Antonio.

Already on a five-game slip, the Realtors are again in for a tough outing against the San Miguel Beermen in the 4:40 p.m. game, especially if Omar Weaver fails to deliver.

The losing trend started when the Realtors dumped Luke Whitehead, who gave them a 2-1 start.

The Beermen, who lost six of their seven games, have replaced Rico Hill with Kwan Johnson, who played for Sta. Lucia Realty in the 1999 Governor's Cup. June Navarro

THE PBA welcomes Extreme Magic Sing to its pool of corporate partners and as major sponsor of the 2005-06 PBA San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference. Commissioner Noli Eala (center) accepts a memento from Astra Group president Orville Roque and EVP and treasurer Higinio Fabian (right) after formalizing the deal recently. Also in photo are (from left) PBA legal counsel Melvin Mendoza and director Jaime Sunglao.

Demand order in exchange for E-VAT

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

IT ARRIVED ONLY AFTER AMPLE WARNING. But the moment the expanded value-added tax (E-VAT) touched base at the sidewalk stalls, all the harassed consumer could do was stare in horror.

The sweet *lanzones*, still within reach of the poor taxpayer a few days ago, was suddenly selling at P70 a kilo.

You could no longer buy kerosene, the poor man's fuel for the sooty makeshift stove, on retail (*walang tingi*). The smallest portion you are allowed to peddle in the corner *sari-sari* store was half a liter of "*gaas*" at P20, take it or leave it.

Sorry, begged the *pan de sal* vendor near the *simenterio*, they now have to add 25 centavos for each piece of the *pugon*-baked morning bread.

There's a long list of woes, as the poor get it in the jaw and try to survive the E-VAT sneak blow.

* * *

Of course, there's still a rare bargain, a piece of welcome news from the PBA, where you could watch the games live from the bleachers for only P5.

The Give-Me-Five promo, which boosted attendance starting Oct. 2, will be in effect until the end of elimination round in December, after which the PBA may have to also bite the E-VAT bullet.

They can't give salary increases if they hope to stay afloat, explains Nandy Charvet, chief operations manager of the world-class Printwell Inc. in Dansalan, Mandaluyong.

So the least they could do, Charvet adds, was to provide cost-saving info-*tipid* tips—to their employees.

Like: using the flat iron only once a week, doing this at daytime, when there's no need for extra lighting. And staying home, in the spirit of bonding—the least expensive manner of enjoying the fruits of life. There's also the suggestion to team up with neighbors, go on carpool, by planning together trips to the office—"*sasakyan kita, sasakyan mo ako.*" Or start early and walk your way to work.

Avoid expensive cholesterol-packed food, try vegetable, fish and other goodies from the benevolent sea; consult the menu provided in a pamphlet containing a host of other cost-saving tips. Healthy *na, mura pa.*

* * *

Well, it's no easy job for the government to prod the daily wage-earner into believing that E-VAT has provided extra power to his very tired peso.

Majority in the *masa* also suspect the peso's publicized strength (against the dollar) to be only artificial, a put-on, to cushion the crippling pains E-VAT brings with it.

If the peso is indeed stronger now, asks poor Pedro, why has be been buying less and less with his daily wage?

Hunger is just another tax bite away, mainly to those who have to scratch the earth for a living.

The middle class, itself helpless against this crippling weapon of cruel commerce, must start demanding something in return for the extra tax they pay.

Like order in the streets and other significant improvements in their everyday environment.

Can't this government, with more tax revenues in its hands, provide stricter law enforcement for the benefit of the populace?

This is a cry to professional law enforcement all over the country, mainly out in the disorderly metropolis where there are wanton violations of rules 365 days a year, rain or shine.

Problem: law enforcers often look the other way, in exchange for bribes, in order to avoid being knocked out by E-VAT evils themselves.

* * *

(RESPONSE: Lino Barte, whose household on Ginhawa Street, Plainview, Mandaluyong, was ransacked by elements of the city's drug enforcement unit, said he has been assured of quick action by higher authorities. Barte said he had a meeting with Mandaluyong Chief of Police Ericson Velasquez, arranged by Vice Mayor Jesse Cruz, the other day. Velasquez was reportedly aghast that the raiders, who had no search warrant, broke into the Barte residence and damaged prized items to satisfy the whims of a municipal employee. Barte said he would proceed and file charges, despite the meeting with the police chief.)

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
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ABC

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Channel	[illegible]	3:00PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	[illegible]	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Dyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tak Ko To		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo				Krusada Kontra Krimen		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Panday	Pinoy Big Brother	Yes Yes Show			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Rockstar Inc		Dokyu	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	Sassy Girl	Nuts Entertainment			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Iron Chef		Trading Spouses		Extreme Make-Over		Newswatch Now	Keep Up The Good Work		
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EZ Shop		Global Family Series		Legacy Of Hero		Navy Medicine At War	Global Family Series	Up Close And Personal	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Mutant X	C S I (8:15 PM)		Las Vegas		News Central	Oprah		Travel Show
MTV Philippines	Jams	Whatever Things	Pop Up	Hanging Out	The 70's House	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				Homecoming	Get Spotted	TRL		Viva La Bam	Laguna Beach	Get Hitch'd	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYX/LOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Live!		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN				Asian X Games '05 Presented by Kia	X Games 11 - Day2				ATP Masters Series		Goals!	Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '05		Nfl's Greatest Moments		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2004		Sportscenter Asia
Solar Sports		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		Fight	2005 Asian Volleyball C'ship Men S-Finals					Fed Cup SF 2005		2005 US Open 9-Ball C'ship		Shakey's Invitational Volleyball Indon vs. Phil					RTC # 8-Suns
Sports Plus									Nopi Tunervision	NBA Game					NBA Game				
Cinemax			The Hanging Tree			Elmore Leonard's Gold Coast (5:15 PM)				Shot Through The Heart (7:10 PM)				The Firm					Secretary
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Agency II		HCA, The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Agency II		The Hollywood Mom's Mystery			Strong Medicine (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			American Dragon		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip 'N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Mostly True Stories		Superfly		Wild Species: Queen Mary 2, Birth Of A Legend		Sobhraj		Hour China		The Mythbusters 3		Secrets Of The Valley Of The Kings		Hour Asia			
National Geographic		Showreel Asia		Going To Extremes		Everest, The Darkside		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Women Of K2		Taboo	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR	Battle B-Daman	Machine Robo-Rescue	Johnny Bravo	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Mike Lu & Og	Time Squad	Mucha Lucha!	Megas XLR
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes!/ Naturally Sadie/ My Dad The Rock Star/ Viewer's Choice			1, 2, 3	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	The Brothers Garcia		
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Wolfgang Puck's	E! Entertainment Special		Style Star	Life & Style		Intimate Portrait		Breathing Room	Genuine Article
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Angel		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Friends	One Tree Hill/The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Awards		Medical Investigation		The Practice		Friends	One Tree Hill/The 2005 33rd Annual American Music Awards
AXN		House		Las Vegas		Ripley's Believe It or Not		Beastmaster		Pensacola (Season III)		The Amazing Race Family Edition		The Amazing Race Family Edition		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)	
JackTV	Shorties Watching Shorties	South Park	Banzai	Wwe Raw				Filter	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		Dr. Katz	Premium Blend	Shorties Watching Shorties	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Mad TV		The Sib Show	Street Smarts
ETC		Committed	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Eliminidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Complete Savages	What I Like About You	Veronica Mars		Last Comic Standing		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO			P.I. Post Impact			Mask (5:15 PM)				The Challenge (2003) (7:15 PM)				Hard Target			Matchstick Men (10:15PM)		
Star Movies	Cave In (2:45 PM)				American Psycho 2 (4:25 PM)			Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (5:55 PM)			Spartacus			Nature Unleashed Tornado			Cold Mountain (10:35PM)		
Cinema One		Kampanerang Kuba (Movie)				Til There Was You				Notoryus			Persona	Una Kang Naging Akin				Huli Ka Huli Ko	
EWTN	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Refurbishing The Soul	Faith Factory C	Story Keepers	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Catholic Classic	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Mother Angelica Live Classics		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	One In Their Hearts: Holiness Of Priesthood	Deep Conversation Deep Prayer	The Virtues Seven Habits Of Champions	The Abundant Life	

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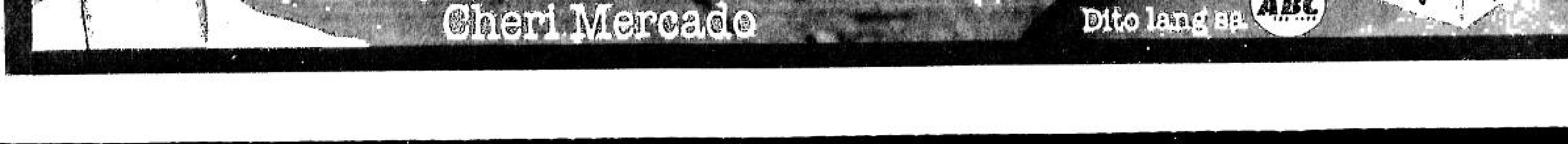

Fiba shoots down POC plan on SEAG caging

By Musong R. Castillo

FORGET ABOUT SEEING BASKETBALL IN the Southeast Asian Games, even if it's just for show.

The International Basketball Federation (Fiba) has threatened the Philippines and other SEAG member countries with sanctions if they participate in any basketball event that will be organized by the Philippine Olympic Committee during the 23rd SEA Games here from Nov. 27.

Even the memorandum of understanding signed by the POC and the Fiba, through secretary-general Patrick Baumann, a month ago could be "jeopardized" should the POC pushes through with its plan to hold a basketball tournament without the blessings of the Fiba.

In a Nov. 1 letter sent to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and chair Robert Aventajado, Baumann reiterated the Fiba's "negative position on this option (holding of the POC-organized caging event)."

He also warned that this "may jeopardize the [agreement] signed between Fiba and the POC."

The option, Baumann said, "is of serious concern for the Fiba."

Cojuangco formed last week a six-man task force headed by Aventajado to study the possibility of holding basketball during the SEAG, after the Fiba refused to lift the country's suspension.

This tournament, supposedly, will be held with the objective of satisfying the Filipinos' craving for the sport, basketball being the country's No. 1 pastime.

Cojuangco is scheduled to fly to Bangkok, Thailand, on Nov. 11 to meet the SEAG Federation Council and seek its approval for this event.

Published reports of the POC plan apparently reached Baumann, who reportedly met recently with Basketball Association of the Philippines president Joey Lina in Geneva, Switzerland.

"According to the Fiba Statutes and Internal Regulations, our affiliated members can only participate in Fiba-sanctioned events," Baumann wrote. "Should the Philippine team participate in the SEA Games in whatever form, the competition will no longer be sanctioned by the Fiba.

"And any participating country and official in the basketball tournament will face sanctions from the International Federation."

Aventajado yesterday did not reply to repeated text queries from the INQUIRER regarding this latest development.

But Joey Romasanta, the POC spokesman and a member of the task force, lamented the Fiba verdict.

"This is a setback for Philippine basketball in particular," he said. "The POC, right from the start, was only protecting the better interest of basketball and hopefully restore our prestigious standing in the world basketball community."

COJUANGCO: Foiled

SAMSUNG TOUR

La Salle standout up by 1; Kim DQd

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—KOREAN KIM CHANG Hoi lost his chance to defend the grand finals title after he was disqualified for playing from a wrong spot yesterday, paving the way for young Terence Macatangay to assume command at the start of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Ayala Greenfield Estates course here.

Macatangay, one of the standouts of La Salle in its victory over Ateneo in their recent matchplay showdown in Baguio, carded a 5-over-par 77.

KIM: Frustrated

That was two off the 75 submitted by the favored Kim, who was disqualified after making a wrong drop.

Attempting to cut the dog-leg par-4 15th, the toughest hole on the course, Kim hit his drive into a stonewall and found the water. Infuriated, Kim did not heed the advice of one of his playing partners, Noel Victoria, that he had to hit another shot off the tee since he had failed to clear the water and landed in a yellow stake area.

Kim went straight to the other side of the fairway, took a drop and holed out from there.

As soon as the scorecards were submitted, chief organizer and noted rulesman Boy Blue Ocampo was told about the possi-

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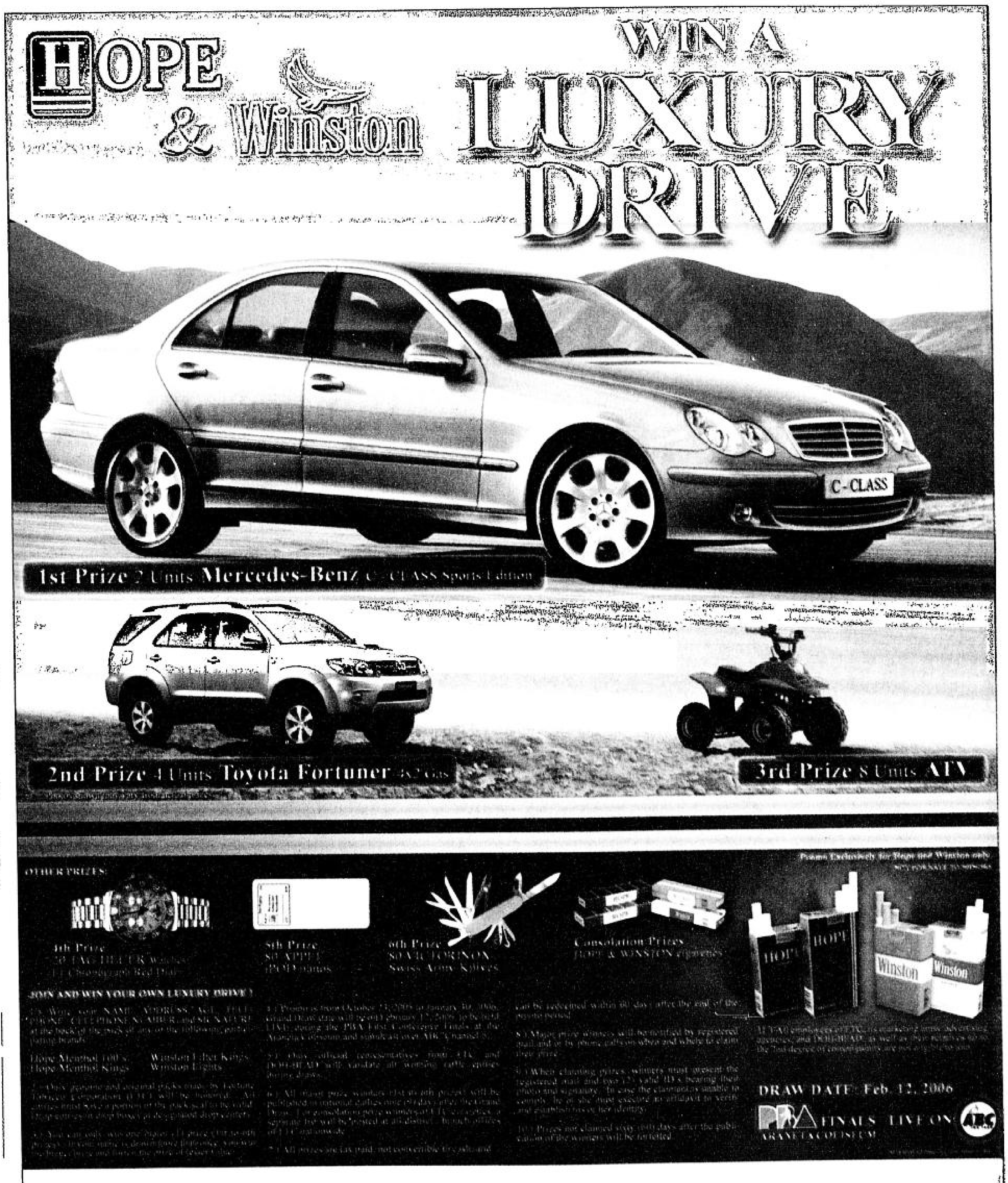

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SPORTSWATCH

Japan's kata master here

JAPANESE KARATE KATA MASTER HIDEHISA Haseme arrived last Sunday to fine-tune the skills of RP'S female kata competitors to the forthcoming 23rd Southeast Asian Games to be held here. Haseme, an eighth dan karate master and former World Karate Federation (WKF) kumite referee and kata judge will stay until Nov. 14 to also conduct a kata seminar at the honbu dojo of the Association for the Advancement of Karatedo (AAK), AAK fitness system, at SM Megamall. He will be ably assisted by Richard Anthony Lim, WKF kumite referee and kata judge and Juan Carlos Veguillas, RP national karate coach. Stephanie Carol Lim of AAK-Ateneo, our female individual kata competitor trained for one year under Haseme during her study in Japan. For further information regarding the seminar, call 635-6608, 635-6611 and 801-1498 or e-mail at aakarate@pldtdsl.net or aakarate@mindgate.com.ph.

Jaca-Duran duel Nov. 26

IT WILL BE YOUTH VERSUS EXPERIENCE WHEN Jimrex "The Executioner" Jaca swaps punches with veteran Samuel Duran on Nov. 26 for the vacant Philippine super-featherweight crown at the Lapu-Lapu Sports Complex. The RP 130-lb throne became vacant after erstwhile champ Bobby Pacquiao won the WBC Continental Americas super featherweight diadem. The 22-year-old Jaca, who hails from Sibulan, Negros Oriental, but is now based in Cebu, will aim for his third RP title having ruled as bantamweight and super-bantamweight champion in 2001 and 2002. In 2004, Jaca (23-1-1, 10 KO's) won the prestigious OPBF super bantam crown only to lose it in his first defense to Yasuo Kunimi in Japan following his failure to make weight. He was subsequently knocked out in the seventh round the following day. Duran (71-26-2, 35 KO's) will be fighting in his 100th fight against Jaca, but remains confident in nailing yet another Philippine title in addition to the ones he annexed in his prime. Duran remains dangerous as he maintains a healthy lifestyle out of the ring. ***Salven Lagumbay, contributor***

San Juan hosts 82 fights

EIGHTY-TWO ENCOUNTERS ARE SCHEDULED today in the crowd-drawing Big Event 5-stag derby at the San Juan Coliseum. The derby will start at 2 p.m. Bebot Roxas of Tarlac (Paniqui) topped the first Big Event derby last September, while Rudy Albano (Mulawin) and the tandem of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Jun Topacio (Sagupaan Complexor 3000 JTPA) ruled the second leg. Today's sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Actual weigh-in of entries will be held today, 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. only. The "bola" system will be adopted in the matching of entries. For additional information, please call 725-5665, 725-5369 and 727-7086 and look for Ariel.

RP 4x4 drivers prepared

BETTER PREPARED FOR THE TOUGH GRIND ahead, the Filipino duo of driver Larry Mendiola and co-driver Atoy Jamilla are ready for action in the Rainforest Challenge of Malaysia set Nov. 26 to Dec. 5. Considered as the ultimate in 4x4 offroad racing, Mendiola, a four-time Offroad Driver of the Year, and Jamilla were joined by Robby Consunji, president of Maven Management Inc., in yesterday's PSA forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila. "We're shipping our vehicle, a modified Land Cruiser, way ahead of the race and it should be there by Nov. 17 or 18. We don't want to experience the same thing when we competed in 2000 there," said Jamilla, recalling the ordeal he had to go through with customs before they could get the car out. The team is backed by TopGear, Land Rover, Energizer Hard Case, VRPMC, Sunbolt, Columbia Sportswear, ARB, Autotechnika, Petron, Blue Dot, Bilstein and Wire Rope Corp..

Golf fund-raiser slated

THE BREEZEWOODS DEVELOPMENT CORP. AND the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (Rebap) will hold the 2005 Rebap Pasig Golf Tournament on Nov. 11, 2005 at 7 a.m. at the Valley Golf and Country club in Antipolo to raise funds for the association and the Medical Mission of the Rotary Club of New Manila. Leading the fund drive are Breezewoods president Francisco J. Buencamino and Romy Judan, Rebap Pasig chapter president. Organizer is Niño Sinco. Giving support are Pagcor, Gatorade, Jackbilt, Manilabank, DHL, Boysen Paints, Sudivision Housing and Builders Association, Kelly Hardware and Realsports on Wave 89.1. Fax entries to 881-8089 or call 426-7690 or text 0917-8585238 or 0927-5303231.

Fastest win kicks off today

SMALLTIME COCKERS AND BACKYARD BREEDERS face one another in Pasay City Cockpit's Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan which will start at 10 a.m. today. More than 120 entries have joined the event. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P150,000 while entry fee is only P1,100. Also slated is the Clean-Up 5-stag derby on Friday. Meanwhile, the yearly Pasko Na Sa Pasay 5-cock derby gets going on Dec. 16 and 18, with P1 million at stake. Entry fee is P10,000. Participants who will score two wins in the elimination round will get a bonus of P10,000. Reservation of cockhouses is now ongoing. For more details, call 816-6750, 843-1890 and 843-1746.

Roligon stakes rich purse

A JACKPOT PURSE OF P300,000 IS UP FOR grabs as promoters Rolly Ligon and Edgar Coronel host the Clean-Up 4-stag derby on Saturday at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Ligon said that entry fee was pegged at only P5,500 to allow more smalltime cockers and breeders to participate. Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, is ongoing daily at Roligon, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Stags previously banded for Stag Festival derby are automatically accepted. For details, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

RACING

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Sweet Peanut 2. Kate Alessandra 3. Silent Witness 4. Crafty Treasure
Race 2—1. Bom's Bom's/Armour of Lights 2. Besame Mucho 3. Magical Surf 4. Doctor Steve/Order of Merit
Race 3—1. Pay to See 2. Sunline 3. Mr. Lucas 4. Cartada Nueve
Race 4—1. Kate Alex 2. Die Hard 3. Coeur D'Honneur 4. Iron Hand 5. Harry Pa Rin 6. Makati Haven
Race 5—1. Join the Saints 2. Guts 3. Blue Iris 4. The Strategist
Race 6—1. Romario 2. Rock Attack Attack 3. Si Isidro Ko 4. Princess Sarah 5. Sovereign Dancer
Race 7—1. Pilgrim 2. Sweet Serenade 3. Beatitudes 4. Cast Away
Race 8—1. Bomb Shell 2. Empire State 3. Something Silver 4. Gentleman's Lady 5. Quick Pick 6. Pride of Mandaue

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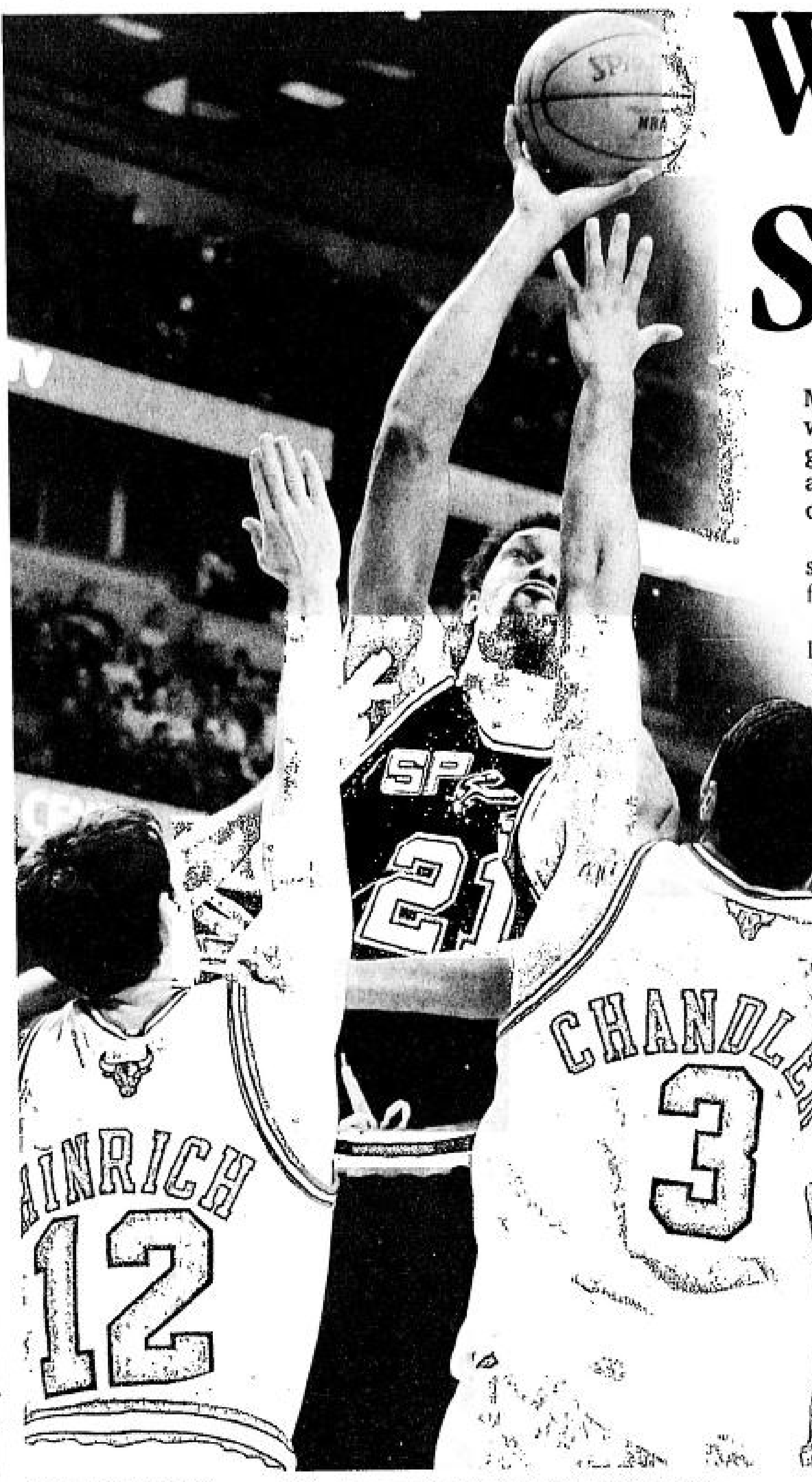


SAN ANTONIO forward Tim Duncan (center) puts up a shot over Chicago guard Kirk Hinrich (left) and center Tyson Chandler. REUTERS

Wade lif
Spurs cl

MIAMI—DWYANE WADE MADE A FREE THROW with 5.2 seconds left and blocked a potential game-winning layup at the buzzer to give the Miami Heat a 90-89 win over the New Jersey Nets on Monday night.

Wade, who had 23 points, drove on the Nets' Jason Kidd and was fouled. He made the second of two free throws before blocking Vince Carter's shot.

The Nets pleaded for a foul, to no avail. Nets coach Lawrence Frank ran halfway across the court to complain about the non-call, as the Heat trotted off and celebrated their 10th straight win over New Jersey.

"All ball," said Wade on his way to the locker room.

Carter had a game-high 32 points.

Antoine Walker had 18 points and Gary Payton added 13 for the Heat. Alonzo Mourning and Jason Williams added 11 points apiece for Miami, which again played without the injured Shaquille O'Neal and used a seven-man rotation in the game. Mourning also had 11 rebounds.

In Toronto, LeBron James had 27 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers over the winless Raptors, 105-93.

Larry Hughes added 16 points for the Cavaliers, who salvaged the last game of their three-game road trip.

Chris Bosh had 26 and 12 rebounds for the Raptors, who are 0-4 for the first time in franchise history.

In Minneapolis, Kevin Garnett had 22 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists as the Minnesota Timberwolves routed the Los Angeles Clippers, 93-78.

Garnett, who was facing former teammate Sam Cassell for the second time in three nights, made up

Bubbles pop up at track and field

By Musong R. Castillo

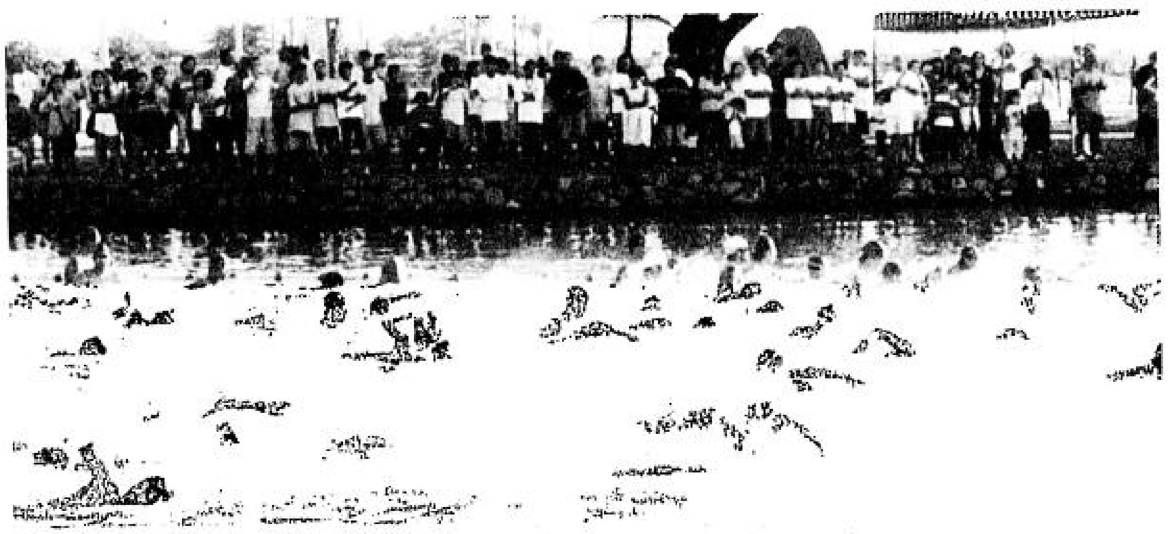
REPAIR WORK ON THE RIZAL MEMORIAL track and field stadium oval hit a snag yesterday after bubbles popped up because of heavy overnight rains.

Bubbles appeared on several meters of the track oval's final bend, forcing workers to dig up the straight again and pour a new mixture of the granite surface with just over two weeks left before the 23rd edition of the Southeast Asian Games formally open.

The granite mixture is like paint being applied on a car body, when the metal of the vehicle should be dry and at least below room temperature.

Application of the granite surface
penultimate stage of preparing the oval.
this dries up, painting of the lanes will

The surface was laid down on Sunda
Monday, but rains contaminated the mi
Fortunately, the portion of the oval tha
damaged is not enough to delay the tar
completion date of Nov. 20, according



TRIATHLETES begin their bid with a 1-km swim in front of a gathering crowd.

National triathletes triumph

NATIONAL ATHLETES IN BOTH TRIATHLON AND duathlon dominated the first ever Lakeshore Triathlon last Sunday morning in Mexico, Pampanga, besting more than 150 competitors.

Three-time national triathlon champion and current duathlon team member George Vilog, 29, pulled away in the cycling leg and padded his lead in the running event to beat national triathlete Mikki Quilala.

"*Naiwan ako sa swim pero naka*-breakaway *ako sa* bike *tapos mas nakalayo ako sa* run," said Armyman Vilog who just returned recently from Newcastle, Australi, for the World Duathlon Championship where he competed in the age group category.

Vilog clocked a cumulative time of 1:20.20 at the Lakeshore event and pocketed P5,000 for his effort. Quilala clocked 1:21.41.

In the women's side of the event which was supported by Speedo, Hotel Graceland, Ford Pampanga, Nestle Ice Cream, Pepsi, Gatorade, Nike, Lifestyle Intra, Batis Asdu Caterers, Mother Earth Quality Meats and the provincial government of Pampanga, Stronghold Insurance and 99.1 GVFM, national triathlete Mimi Lucas, easily won the race in 1:34.30, followed by this year's age-group champ Kim Mangrobang (1:41.02).

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Two premium ca

Old hand Galido shows semblance o

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre sports editor

WELTERWEIGHT REYNALDO GALIDO, who will represent the Philippines anew, showed flashes of brilliance as he forced Ireland's Eric Sheehan to quit in the second round in Day 2 of the Touch Mobile Go for Gold International Joint Training program Monday night at the Atrium of the SM Baguio.

The 1996 Atlanta Olympian, will see action for the Philippines in the 23rd SEA Games.

Though still out of rhythm and lacking in stamina, the 30-year-old Galido didn't back down against Donovan, a four-time all-Ireland champion, to the delight of the
packed crowd.

The bout was stopped when Donova
fered a cut in his face after getting tagge
Galido right cross.

"My body thirsts for boxing," said G
"I'll be in tip-top shape come the SEA Ga
don't want to disappoint people."

Lim tops Poker King leg

JASON LIM, A BUSINESS EXECUTIVE by profession, won the fifth leg of the Poker King Challenge series held at Casino Filipino Tagaytay during the weekend.

After six hours of intense competition, Lim grabbed the champion's trophy and qualified for the Grand Finals together with Pico Ching and Jun Lañas, first runner-up and second runner-up, respectively.

The tournament was backed by the Poker Club of the Philippines, Pagcor, Jack Daniels, Miller Genuine Draft Beer, Bicycle Playing Cards/Star Paper, Hyatt Hotel and Casino, Ralph's Wine, Cinnabon and MyReviewerOnline.

Those interested to join the succeeding legs of Poker King Challenge or would like to join other non-wager tournaments may obtain details from the website www.PokerClubofthePhilippines.com or from the club Secretariat at 817-9092 or 816-6195.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ts Heat; ip Bulls

for Saturday's loss. He had missed a jump shot in the lane in the closing seconds of overtime during the 100-99 defeat in Los Angeles.

Elton Brand had 26 points and eight rebounds to overshadow Cassell (11 points on 3-for-10 shooting) in his return to Minnesota since the August trade that sent him to California for Marko Jaric. The Clippers became the last Western Conference team to lose after a 3-0 start that was their best since 1985.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Mehmet Okur scored seven of his career-high 31 points in overtime as the Utah Jazz nipped the Bobcats, 95-91.

Andrei Kirilenko added 20 points and eight rebounds for the Jazz, who recovered after blowing a 14-point third-quarter lead.

Primoz Brezec, Sean May and Jumaine Jones scored 13 points, and Emeka Okafor added 12 points and 11 rebounds for the Bobcats, who were trying to win three in a row for the first time in franchise history.

The Bobcats, who rallied from a 12-point fourth-quarter hole to beat Boston on Saturday, also came back against the Jazz behind rookies May and Raymond Felton.

In Chicago, Tim Duncan finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds, and Tony Parker scored eight of his 22 in overtime to lead the San Antonio Spurs past the Bulls, 104-95.

Parker was 6-of-14 from the field and 10-of-12 from the line and finished with nine assists as the Spurs rebounded from a 103-84 loss at Dallas on Saturday.

Duncan also blocked six shots—giving him 1,505 rejections for his career.

Tied at 91 after regulation, the Spurs outscored Chicago 13-4 in overtime. *AP*

NBA on Solar

The Memphis Grizzlies host the Seattle Supersonics on Solar Sports at 9 a.m. Sportsplus will telecast the matches pitting the Detroit Pistons against the Sacramento Kings at 11 a.m. and the Orlando Magic against the Houston Rockets at 9:30 p.m.

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contractor's representative.

"After we laid the granules, heavy rains fell," said Inter-Surface representative Grace Amistoso. "We have to replace that portion. Nothing to worry, we'll finish it."

A total of 45 gold medals will be staked in track and field, and the country is targeting to win from 12-16 golds.

der's Cup tilt up biggest in local golf

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of almost P4 million will be given away in the grand raffle while another will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize. This will be aside from the P1.4 million allotted for the tournament raffle winners.

The registry is almost full a good two weeks before the tournament and organizers believe they will surpass last year's field of 300 teams.

The first batch of hole sponsors include Baron Travel, GG&A Property Brokers, Pagcor, Emeritus Security & Maintenance System, Exotic Gardens, JV Landayan Construction/V8 Construction, Kubota Agro Industrial Machinery, BF Metal, Del Monte, Eurovek Building Solutions, Filipinas Multiline/Integrated Waterproofing, Global Brands, Industrial Waste System, Vice Mayor Louie Bustamante/Las Piñas Golfers Club, Imus Mayor Homer Saquilayan, Pepsico, PN Aventajado Construction and Romago.

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Galido may compete in the middleweight class in the biennial Games.

Also winning were Joan Tipon, Mark Jason Melligen and Junel Cantancio.

Tipon, Magliquian, Melligen, Violito Payla, Joegin Ladon and light-flyweight Harry Tañamor will represent the country in the 23rd SEA Games.

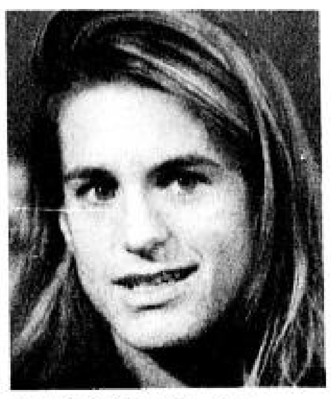
GAMES FOR UNITY Believing that the 23rd Southeast Asian Games can boost national unity, the Philips Group of Companies is pitching in to ensure the event's success. Philips president and CEO Med Mate (left) says Philips will provide the event with the latest TV technology and lighting solutions. With him are Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee chair Jose "Peping" Cojuangco (middle) and Nini Icban, Philip's corporate communications manager.

Davenport, Clijsters battle for No. 1

DAVENPORT: Great goal AP

CLIJSTERS: Better stats AP

SHARAPOVA: Rookie AP



MAURESMO: Tough foe AP

LOS ANGELES—WITHOUT THE WILLIAMS sisters, Lindsay Davenport finds herself the lone American at the WTA Championships, where she and Kim Clijsters are contending for the year-end No. 1 ranking.

Davenport takes a 155-point lead over the second-ranked Belgian into the season-ending tournament that begins Tuesday at Staples Center.

Clijster's statistics are better than Davenport's, having won nine titles and 66 matches to six tournaments and 58 matches for the American.

"I never thought I could have a season like this," said Clijsters, who missed the tournament last year because of wrist surgery.

Davenport will try to end the year at No. 1 for the fourth time in her career.

"It's a great goal to have and it's a great kind of incentive this week," she said Monday. "If it doesn't happen, it's not something that is going to worry me all that much. Kim totally deserves it."

Davenport and Clijsters both have played well since the US Open, where the American lost a three-set quarterfinal to Elena Dementieva.

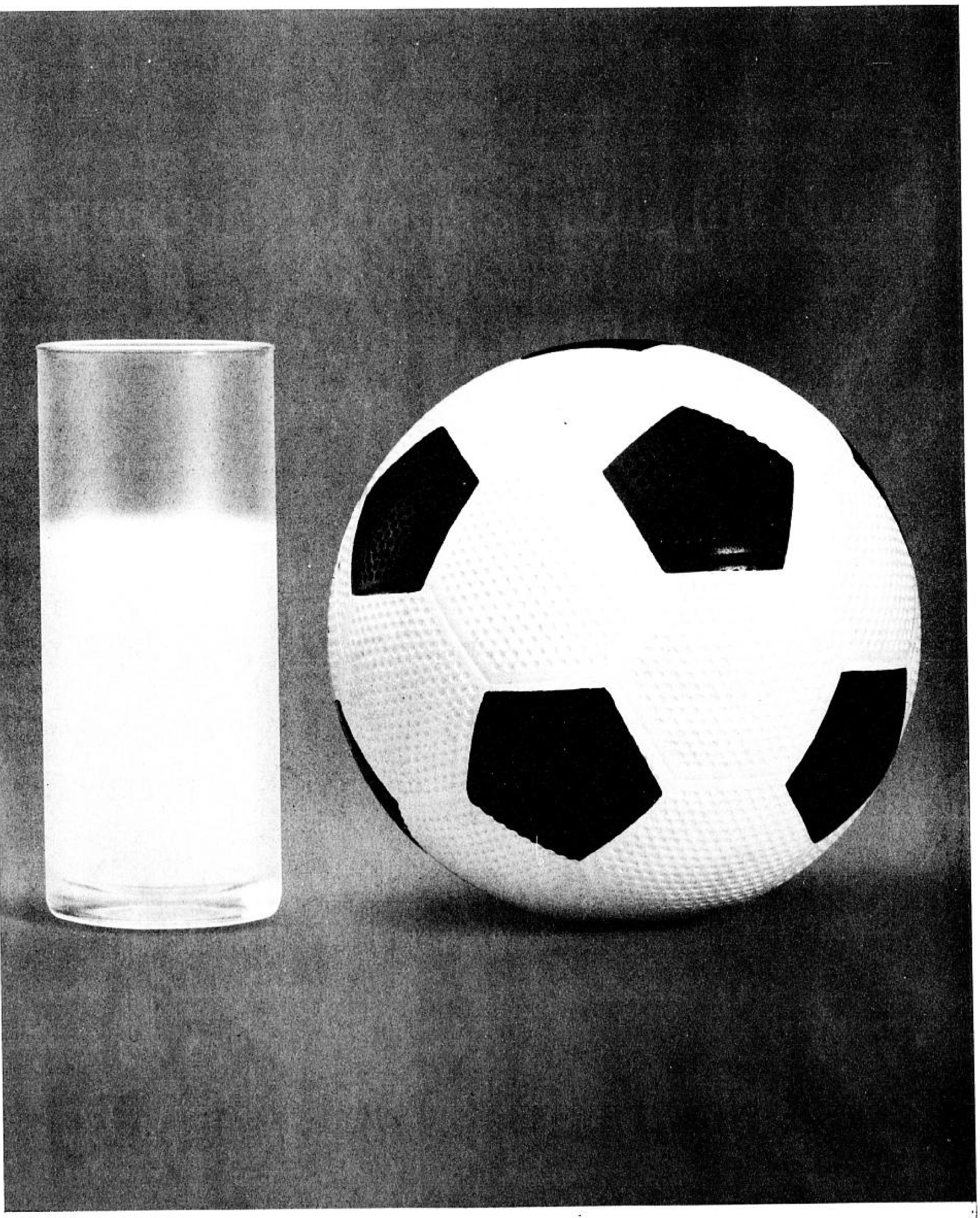
Davenport opens Tuesday against Russian Nadia Petrova, while Clijsters takes on Mary Pierce, and Maria Sharapova plays Patty Schnyder in a round-robin format that will decide the four semifinalists. Amelie Mauresmo faces a tough foe in Dementieva on Wednesday.

The tournament is without the Williams sisters, who failed to qualify for the eight-player field. Bothered by injuries, Australian Open winner Serena and Wimbledon champion Venus took the rest of the year off after losing in Beijing in September.

French Open winner Justine Henin-Hardenne qualified, but is out with a hamstring injury.

Sharapova is the defending champion and the only other player besides Davenport and Clijsters to reach No. 1 this year.

"I still feel like I'm a rookie. I'm still learning things that can help me," she said. *AP*



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ITF NETFEST

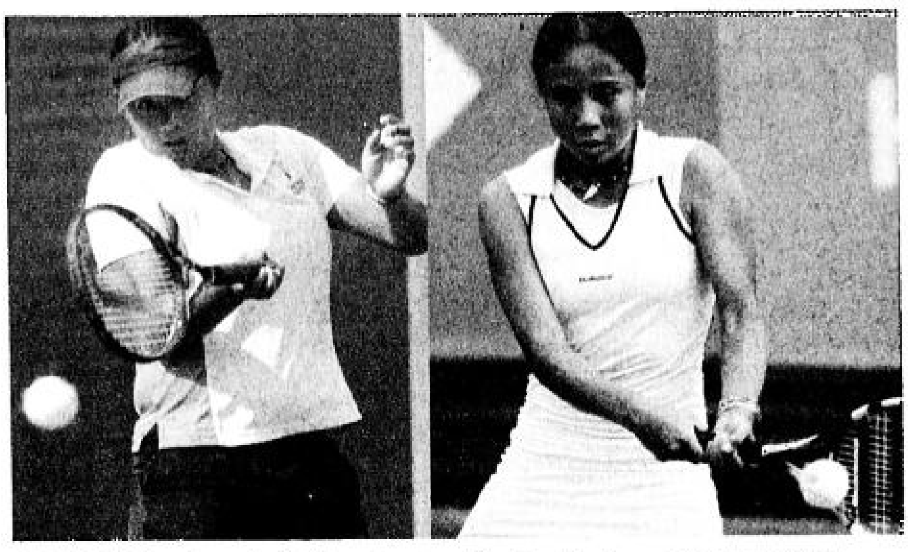
Orteza through; Arevalo-Dy falls

LOCAL QUALIFIER MELISSA ORTEZA DEFEATED COMPATRIOT MICHELLE Pang, 6-1, 6-2, yesterday to advance to the second round of the $10,000 Holcim ITF Women's Circuit 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

In other matches, No. 7 Korean Kim Hae-sung downed American Julianna Gates, 6-2, 6-3; US qualifier Maureen Diaz outclassed Thai Nungnadda Wannasuk, 6-1, 6-3; Hong Kong's Zhang Ling rallied past American Zena Williams, 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; Taiwanese Kao Shao-yuan clobbered compatriot Chen Lu-ling, 6-2, 6-0; and Korean Lim Sae-mi outplayed local Trudy Gine Amoranto, 6-4, 6-2.

In the doubles, the Taiwanese pair of Chen Yi and Kao Shao-yuan eliminated locals Czarina Mae Arevalo and Denise Dy, 6-3, 6-1, to lead the first-round winners of this event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Fund, Dunlop balls, Manila Pavilion and the Philippine Sports Commission.

Also advancing were Briton Rebecca Fong and Thai Pichittra Thongdach who whitewashed American Marie Zalameda and Filipino Noelle Zoleta, 6-0, 6-0; and Briton Rachel Hall and Japanese Hiromi Okazaki who outlasted the British pair of Natasha Khan and Georgie Stoop, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.



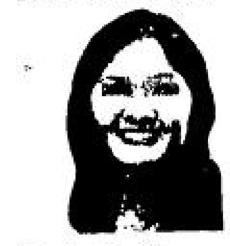
CZARINA Mae Arevalo (left) and partner Denise Dy win only four points in a losing stand against the Taiwanese pair of Chen Yi and Kao Shao-yuan. RYAN LIM

Singles action resumes today at 10:30 a.m. with top seed Korean Lyoo-Suh Hee Sun facing Japan's Hiromi Okazaki, No. 2 Korean Lee Jin-A battling Dy, third seed Briton Rebecca Fong playing against Filipino Aileen Rogan, and fourth seed Pichittra Thongdach meeting Arevalo.

Sixth seed Fil-American Riza Angela Zalameda, who will banner the Philippine women's team in the Southeast Asian Games, tackles Korean Seo Soon-mi, while wild card Anja Vanessa Peter, who just arrived from a tournament in Thailand, takes on compatriot Noelle Zoleta, the singles and doubles winner of the recent Escudero Open in San Pablo City, Laguna.

PBA surprise: Bald, and proud of it

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

THE TALK 'N TEXT Phone Pals surprised everyone last Sunday when they showed up at the Araneta Coliseum with clean-shaven pates for the game against the Alaska Aces.

Correction: not everyone shaved their heads. Some of them like Vic Pablo, Mark Telan and Jimmy Alapag got cold feet and opted against it.

The Phone Pals said they had shaved their heads to express unity.

Against whom, or what for, they didn't bother to explain?

* * *

Some decades ago, an all-bald Ysmael Steel squad bannered by Narciso Bernardo and Jake Rojas also reported for duty against the Yco Painters after they lost shamefully to business rival Puyat Steel. The Steelers were actually the original baldies. This happened during the old MICAA days.

The second team to pull the same stunt was RFM Swift, led by coach Yeng Guiao, in an act of frustration for failing to qualify for the next round.

"*Lahat nagpakalbo*, from the players to the coaching staff. *Ako nagpatina*," recalled Elmer Yanga, the silver-haired team manager who dyed his hair brown at the time. The cagers printed their jersey number on their bald heads.

Yeng liked the bald look so much he decided to keep it.

* * *

Basketball scholar Teddy Reynoso of Bulacan, Bulacan, squirmed on his seat as the 20-second silent prayer was observed for the late PBA cager Adriano "Jun" Papa who died of a heart attack recently.

"Something tugged at the pit of my stomach. I couldn't believe the crowd could be so disrespectful and insensitive. They chanted a countdown as the clock ticked away and applauded when the count came down to zero. Twenty seconds seemed to be too long for them, they could hardly wait for the next game to start," Teddy reported.

Jun's widow, Waffles, who was watching the games on television, was at a loss on how to interpret the sickening crowd reaction.

* * *

In his invitation, Vintage honcho Bobong Velez expressed his wish to celebrate his 60th birthday "with people I admire and respect and family and friends I truly care for."

In "Scorpio Nights" fashion, Bobong also promised to provide good food, plenty of booze and great company at Mezze, the restaurant he owns, on Nov. 7, the day of the big bash.

Well, Bobong lived up to his promise and got his wish. Guests from all sectors of upper society came to pay their respects to the man behind the outfit that is, to this day, still considered the best television coveror of the PBA games. No less than former first lady Imelda Marcos graced the affair, dressed in a flaming red attire. Bobong said Meldy was a neighbor at the exclusive Pacific Place condo in Makati.

PLDT's Manny Pangilinan, another neighbor and also a cousin (Manny's middle name is Velez), was also invited but was still not around when I left the super-crowded affair around 11 p.m.

* * *

Except for Dr. Vicky Belo, Miss Earth, PR man Danny Gozo, MTV's Rod Nepomuceno and TV newscaster Mike Enriquez, I didn't recognize most of the non-sport faces, although I believed that many of them were famous.

Mike Enriquez annotated the audio-visual presentation of Bobong's 60 years, which turned out to be the highlight of the affair.

Produced by Flor Malong, who used to work for Vintage, I thought that the production was filled with nostalgia, and it was very entertaining, and touching.

I looked at Bobong's eyes when the show was over. I swear that tears formed in both of them. But he was smiling. I could tell he was very happy that night.

Among Bobong's sporting friends who attended his bash were former PBA team owner Honeyboy Palanca, ex-Vintage partner Lito Anzures, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, PBA broadcasters Ed Picson, Andy Jao, Anthony Suntay and Qunito Henson who emceed the program, former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino and incumbent Noli Eala, PBFI president Moying Martelino, Ateneo sports director Ricky Palou. The place was filled to the sidewalk and the mezzanine, and there were many others whom I didn't see.

* * *

The PBA has a new set of barkers, all of them DJs from Energy FM(91.5 on the radio band), official partner of the radio station that covers the games. The barkers/DJ's, who took over from Rolly Manlapaz and his friends are Sgt. Mark, Private Ryan and Billy Bola.

According to station manager Manny Luzon, Energy FM provides entertainment, updates on the game and music before, after and in-between the actual radio coverage of the PBA games.

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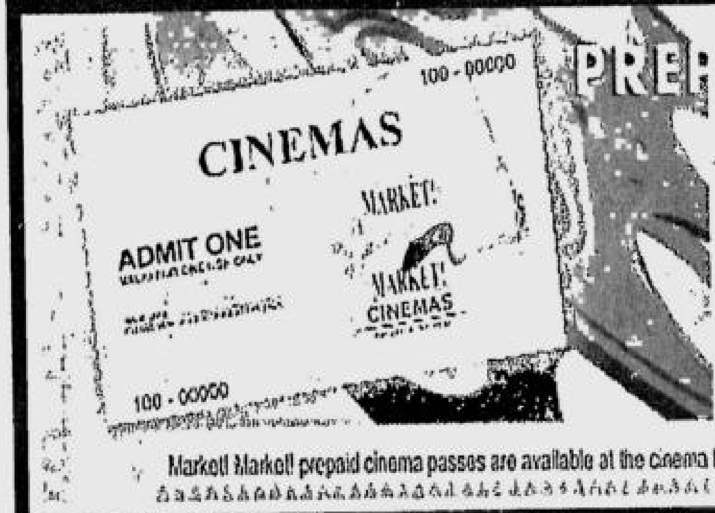

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RP chess team still solid sans Paragua

EVEN WITHOUT GRANDMASTER Mark Paragua, the national men's chess team remains a force to reckon with in the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

The presence of GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Nelson Mariano II speaks of how formidable the team is, capable of retaining the overall title it won in the 2003 Vietnam Games behind Paragua.

"Even without Mark, the team is strong," National Chess Federation of the Philippines director Willie Abalos told yesterday's PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila.

"Even our opponents expect us to win the title," said Antonio, who himself is eyeing five gold medals.

Antonio, Mariano, along with Ronald Dableo and Oliver Dimakiling, also attended the program.

La Salle standout up by . . .

From page A25

ble infraction. It didn't take long for Ocampo to make the verdict.

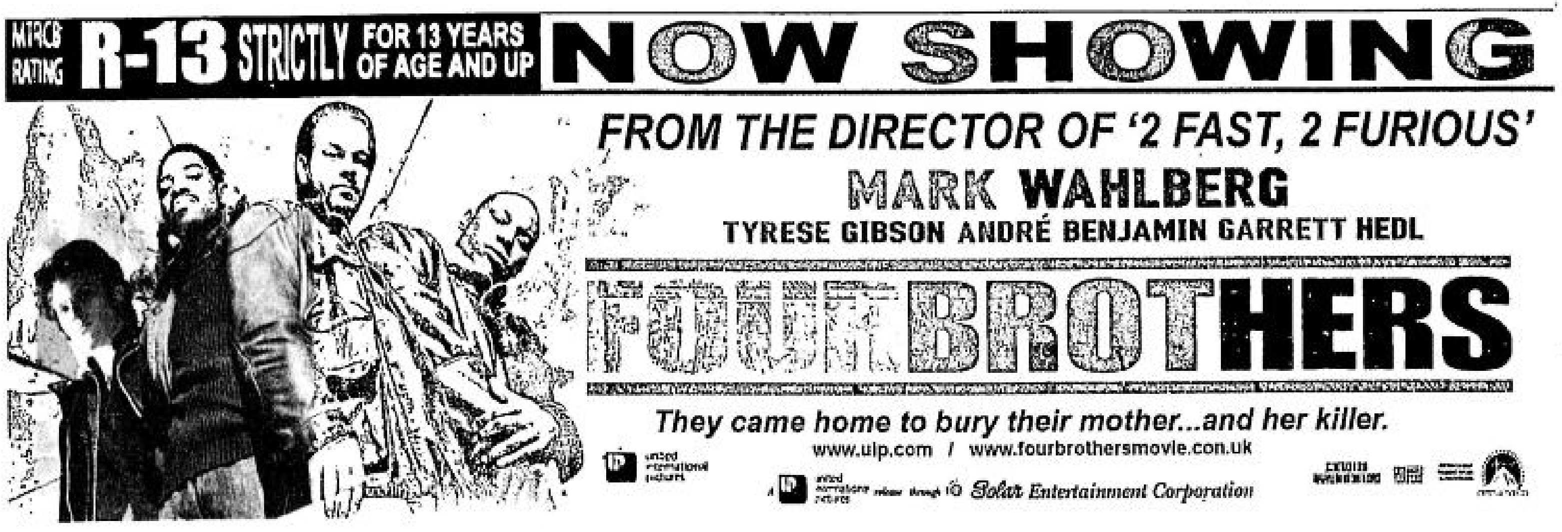
"He had it coming," said Ocampo. "It's an unfortunate case of loss of concentration over one bad drive. He admitted that he was so upset, and that he believed that it was a red stake."

In the battle of jungolfers for the ladies Class A plum, it was Beverly Mendoza who emerged the leader after a 1-under 71 on a hot and windy day in this fifth and final leg of an elimination series.

Mendoza will take a 3-shot lead over Regan de Guzman into today's final round. Ma-an Legaspi was third at 79 while Cyna Rodriguez soared to an 85.

Tess Staub was leading Class B by four shots after an 82. In second was Beth Menchavez while Maline Flores and Grace Superal, mother of world champion Wolen, shared third at 92.

Trailing Macatangay by one was Anthony Fernando while Jong Laput and Benjie Sarmiento were five shots back at 82. Gino Bunye tallied an 83 for fifth place.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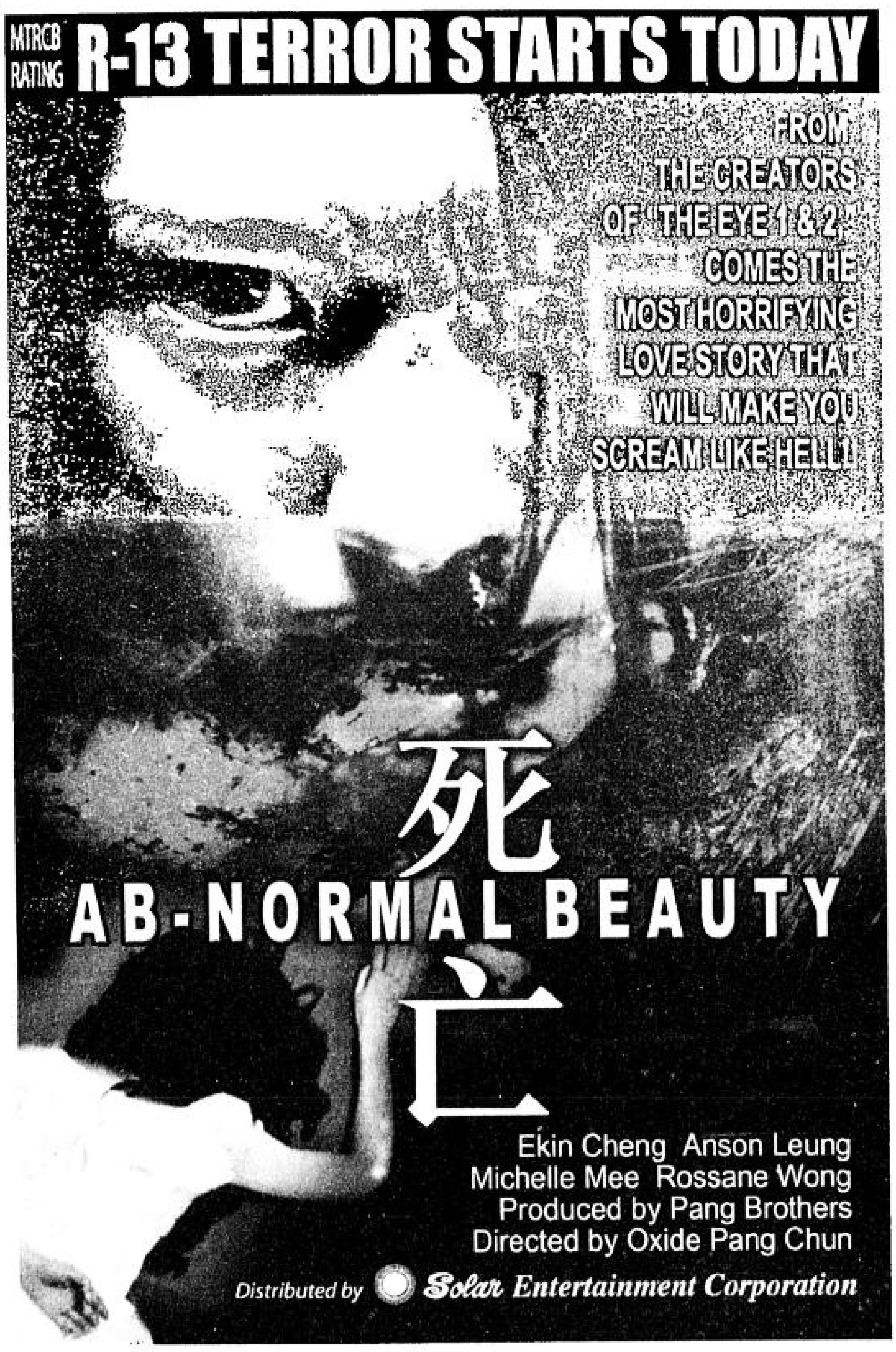
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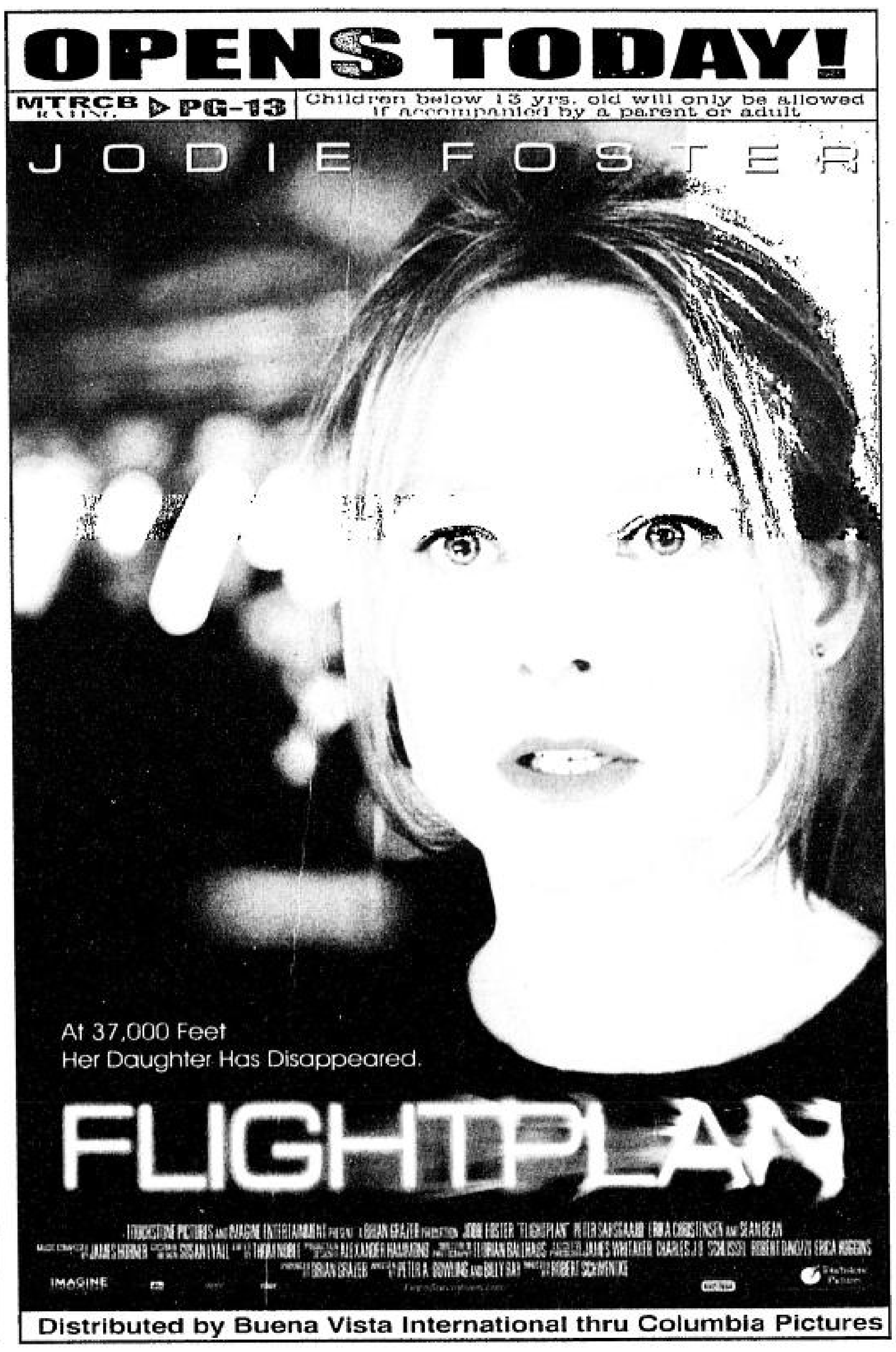
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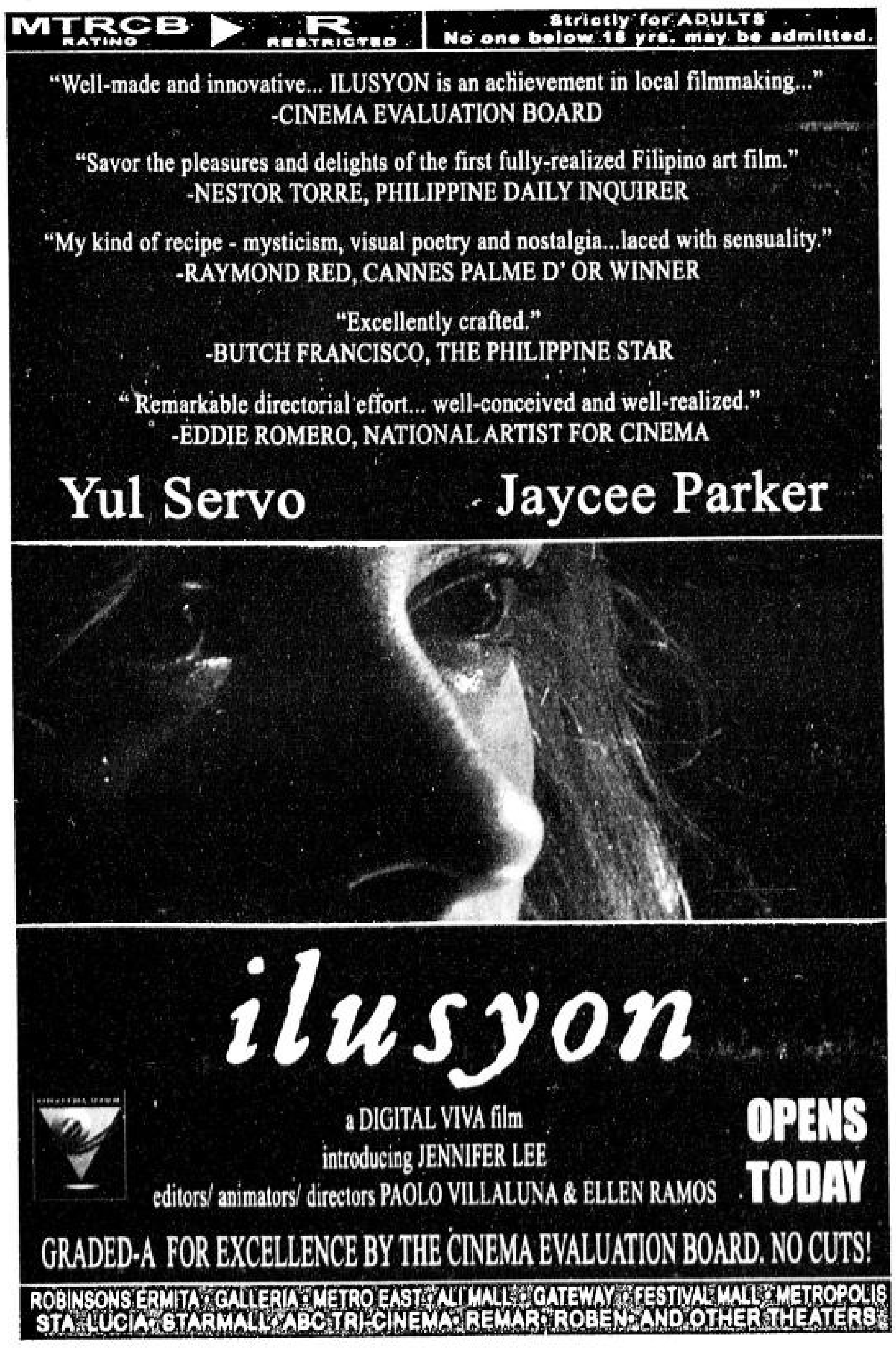
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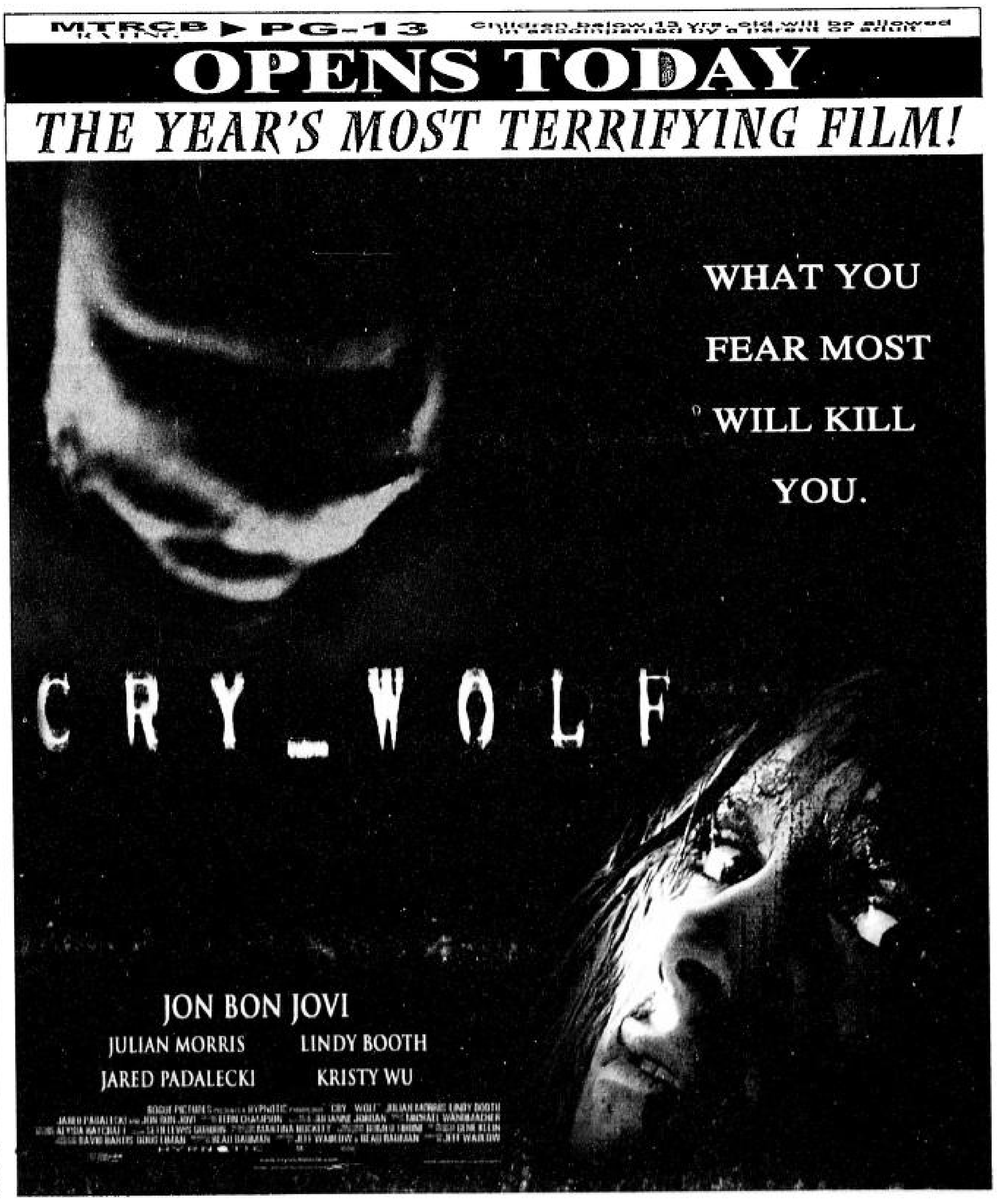
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"I KNEW it was coming."

Favorite Sam gets the boot!

By Nini Valera

A CONSPIRACY THEORY is being floated around regarding the eviction of Pinoy Big Brother housemate, Sam Milby, last Saturday night: that his fans conspired not to vote for him because they wanted to meet him.

This theory was bolstered by sexy actress Rica Peralejo that she had voted for Jayson instead of Sam, whom she had a crush on.

"I'm sorry, Sam. I voted for Jayson," Rica said in an interview during a press conference for her movie "Hari Ng Sablay" on Sunday night. "I want to meet you."

That's because now that he's out, Sam will be more visible and, presumably, more accessible.

Jayson won over Sam with a total of 53.8 percent text votes from viewers. Sam is the sixth PBB housemate to be voted out since the reality-based contest began last September.

On Sunday, Rica managed to greet Sam only during his guest appearance on "ASAP." But the following day, the two were together taping for "Okay, Fine… 'To Ang Gusto Mo."

"Of course, I'm flattered," was all Sam, 21, could say about the adulation. He had stepped out of the house into a welcoming crowd on the street and another inside the ABS-CBN studio.

Among those who welcomed Sam was ex-housemate Chx, who professed love for him during a press con held after she was evicted.

Ironically, Sam downplayed his supposed romantic entanglement with Chx.

Friends

"I just want us to be friends," he said.

He denied that he had dumped her.

"Of course not," he exclaimed. "I heard she got back with her boyfriend after she came out."

Sam said he still had to talk to Chx. "I've been really busy," he said.

But Sam found time to talk with Dr. Paul Villaruz Lee, PBB resident shrink, for the customary exit interview

"He said I was fine," Sam claimed. "I knew it was coming. I was calm when my name was called."

Sam stayed a total of 49 days in the house after he replaced housemate Jenny, who left voluntarily to visit her then sick father.

Before PBB, Sam, who lives in Dayton, Ohio, was just on a vacation here with his Filipino mother and sister.

But the Fil-Am's classic good looks landed him contracts for television commercials for two disparate products—liquor and toothpaste. He also got hooked on the limelight and dreamed of becoming an *artista*. Which was why he found PBB a welcome opportunity.

"But staying in the house was far more difficult than you could ever imagine," Sam said. "I missed going to the malls [and] I missed my sister most."

Inside the PBB house, however, Sam was able to craft the song, "Magmahal Muli," originally written in English, but translated with the help of his housemates. The song, about Sam's past relationships, was instant hit among the housemates and viewers after Sam performed it during the "Concert In The House" weekly task.

Everything

Asked what he'd like to pursue in show biz, Sam—who once had a band in the US for which he played rhythm guitar—said he'd probably be a bit of everything.

"But I have to be working on my Tagalog if I want to be an actor," he admitted.

To most of his fans, like Toni Gonzaga and Mariel Rodriguez, PBB hosts who also admit having a crush on Sam, all this boy from America has to do is be pretty. Conversation can come later.

CARLENE Aguilar: "If I win, it will be for the Philippines."

Home today, off on Friday

BINIBINING PILIPINAS-WORLD CARLENE Aguilar is coming home today after three weeks of training in Bogota, Colombia.

Her heart is set on winning the country's first Miss World title.

In the last three years, the Philippines has been the only country to consistently place in the pageant's finals—Katherine Manalo in 2002, Mafae Yunon in 2003 and Karla Bautista in 2004.

Carlene, 23, was the first Miss Philippines-Earth winner. In 2001, she was a Miss Earth semifinalist and placed third in the 2004 Miss Chinese International Pageant.

The Miss World pageant on Dec. 10 in Sanya, China—with more than 100 candidates—is her biggest challenge, Carlene admits.

Votes via text and e-mail from all over the world will determine results of the semifinals.

Two candidates each will be selected from the Asia-Pacific, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, the Americas, the Caribbean, and Africa. The Beach Beauty and Talent competition winners, along with the recipient of the Beauty with a Purpose Award, will complete the Top 15.

"Keep on praying and believing that we can make it," Carlene appealed to the Filipinos. "If I win, the victory will be for you."

Carlene leaves for China on Nov. 11.

JEN stars in "The Breakup" and "Derailed." AP

Wrongly dubbed a 'crying chick'

NEW YORK—JENNIFER ANISTON SAYS she's been wrongly pegged as a crier since splitting with Brad Pitt.

Aniston reportedly broke down during an interview for the September issue of Vanity Fair.

"I was upset about the Vanity Fair article. I had one moment when I got emotional because I hadn't sat down with an interviewer since this whole debacle took place," Aniston told Newsweek magazine. "It happened for a second and then it was over."

The 36-year-old actress has said the media coverage and tabloid rumors were hard to deal with—especially reports that she didn't want to start a family.

Her divorce from Brad Pitt became final Oct. 2, concluding four and a half years of marriage. They separated in January.

The release of her new movie, "Derailed"—in which she plays a woman with a shaky marriage who has a steamy affair—might have been better timed. While they were still married, Pitt was widely rumored to be involved with Angelina Jolie, his co-star in the movie "Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

Not again!

Now, after months of laying low to avoid prying paparazzi, Aniston, 36, was recently photographed in an embrace with actor Vince Vaughn, her co-star on a film aptly titled "The Break Up" shot last summer, setting off a new wave of gossip.

During publicity interviews for "Derailed" this week, Aniston declined to answer personal questions. "We had a really fun time, considering the subject," was the closest she came to discussing the movie's infidelity theme.

It is her first movie released since her divorce and the end of "Friends" in 2004. She stars with British actor Clive Owen in the $22-million project, the first feature released by Miramax Films founders Bob and Harvey Weinstein under their newly formed studio The Weinstein Co.

She also has forthcoming comedy roles in director Rob Reiner's "Rumor Has It" and in "Friends with Money" as well as serious roles in "Diary," "Wanted" and "The Senator's Wife," which she is producing. *AP, Reuters*

OPENING TODAY

Ilusyon

Stars Yul Servo, Jaycee Parker, Bella Flores, Anita Linda
Directed by Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos

Set in 1950s Manila, "Ilusyon" chronicles the journey of Miguel (Servo), son of a painter. He pretends to be his father—just to paint model Stella (Parker) in the buff. When Stella is afflicted with a strange skin disease, their quirky romance turns into a meditation on "love, beauty, truth and reality." Bella Flores steals the show, but Anita Linda delivers a memorable performance with just one line: "*Wala na siya.*" Rated A by the Cinema Evaluation Board, "Ilusyon" was cited for being "well-made and innovative... an achievement in local digital filmmaking and shows [that] independent filmmakers can contribute [to] the resuscitation of the moribund film industry." Approved without cuts, the R-18 film is showing only in Robinsons, Ali Mall and Gateway. According to co-director Villaluna, it was blown up to 35mm film by Ignite Media and Technicolor in Thailand.

Cry_Wolf

Stars Jon Bon Jovi, Julian Morris, Kristy Wu
Directed by Jeff Wadlow

A Slasher flick that's given a cyber twist, "Cry_Wolf" has troubled preppies as protagonists, one of whom posts a false story on the Net about a serial killer dubbed "The Wolf." After "victims" vanish without a trace, the teenagers suspect the murderer is one of them. Ty Burr of the Boston Globe was unimpressed. In his piece entitled, "Light on gore and suspense, it's all claws and no bite," he wrote: "[It's] a sheep in wolf's clothing... Give it points for trying something different—and then take them back for botching the job." It also casts rocker Bon Jovi as a prep-school journalism teacher. Go figure.

Flightplan

Stars Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard, Sean Bean
Directed by Robert Schwentke

Think "Panic Room" set in a state-of-the-art aircraft. Yet another post-9/11 plane paranoia caper in the heels of "Red Eye," "Flightplan" explores "every woman's nightmare: losing a daughter, this one 40,000 feet up in the air, on a flight from Berlin to New York." That the beleaguered mother is played by Jodie Foster gives the movie a semblance of integrity, critics note. Said Eleanor Ringel Gillespie of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution: "Some bumpy spots, but kept aloft by Foster's fierce performance... when someone messes with Jodie, she messes back." Of course, she uses her brain to trump her opponents. Gillespie noted, "She doesn't scream; she simply gets the job done." Unlike most local screen heroines.

AB-Normal Beauty

Stars Race Wong Yuen-Ling, Rosanne Wong Yuen-Kwan, Anson Leung Chun-Yat
Directed by Oxide Pang

Billed as a "love story that will make you scream like hell," "AB-Normal Beauty" is reputedly from the creators of "The Eye 1 and 2." Wrote Kozo of LoveHKFilm.com: "Oxide Pang of the celebrated Pang Brothers directs... [this] atmospheric thriller." The "bravura direction," the web reviewer pointed out, "more than makes up for an over-the-top and uncomfortably ugly third act." Defying description, the film features a potential lesbian couple portrayed by real-life sisters and pop duo 2R! One of them is a "morose" coed who not just sees, but also photographs dead people. The 2004 flick was nominated at the 24th Hong Kong Film Awards for Best New Artist (for Race Wong) and Best Visual Effects.

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ROUNDUP

Film on Lennon murder

LOS ANGELES—Twenty-five years after the murder of former Beatles member John Lennon, a Canadian-based film company is set to explore the mind of his killer in a movie starring Lindsay Lohan and Jared Leto, backers of the project said on Thursday. Leto has signed on to portray Lennon's killer, Mark David Chapman, in the upcoming independent film "Chapter 27." The parts of Lennon and wife Yoko Ono have not been cast.

Reuters

MTV Europe Awards

LISBON—US punk rock trio Green Day and British act Coldplay shared top honors at the MTV Europe Music Awards, picking up two prizes each in an event broadcast from the Portuguese capital.

Green Day won the awards for Best Rock Act and Best Album for "American Idiot" while Coldplay won Best UK and Ireland Act and Best Song for "Speed of Sound."

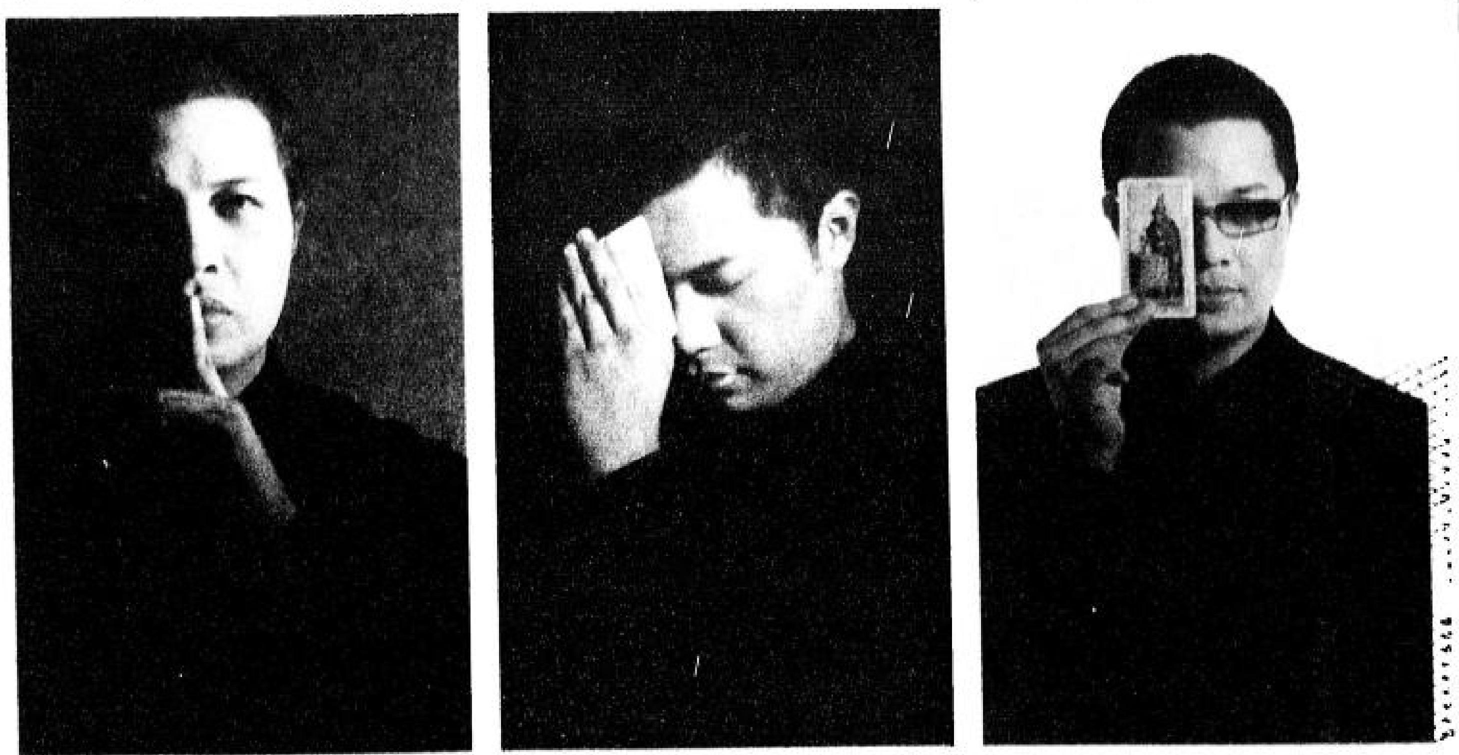
AFP

Alumni honorees

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines recently honored its alumni Jonalyn Viray, right, and Ryza Cenon for their achievements. The two are seen in photo with CPMP founder-CEO Butch Albarracin during the rites held at SM City North Edsa Cinema 5.

Eyeball for Yasmien

ONLINE fans of Yasmien Kurdi are set to meet for the first time at the KDF Grand Eyeball and Fans Day on Nov. 20 at Dencio's in Quezon City. They will watch their idol earlier on GMA 7's "SOP." At the party, organizers said, they will give away fun awards.



ERIK MANA: "Trying to manipulate someone's thinking or actions is true daring, because you'll never know what will happen."

Move over, David Blaine

By Alexa H. Bacay

MOVE OVER, DAVID BLAINE.

Magic is Erik Mana's game but he goes beyond that.

"What Blaine and I do are very similar—a lot of street magic. But some things I've touched upon that not many people have seen Blaine do, is 'mentalism.'" He defines that as "the art of mind-reading."

Mana starred in his first TV special last year. He has come up with another one that pulls him further out of the Canadian Blaine's shadow. A bit darker, with a spookier air, the show, Mana explains, explores the realm of ghosts and the supernatural.

Mind power

"Mastermind: The Magik of Erik Mana" airs Friday, and Saturday, 10:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN.

"It's all about the power of the mind—what I can do and what I can get other people to do," Mana says of the TV special. "Much of the magic really does not come from me but from others."

He notes that Filipinos have become more aware of magic as a craft. "I've met a lot of young aspirants, and I think there's a bright future in it."

Stage hypnosis

Mana's own fascination with the human mind led him to a deeper study of hypnosis. While most magicians rely on props and special effects, he says, he employs knowledge of human behavior.

"When you speak of daring, trying to manipulate someone's mind or actions—that is quite daring," he stresses. "You can never tell what's going to happen."

Mana recalls that he once apprenticed with a doctor who practiced hypnotherapy to help people quit bad habits, like smoking. Some patients could quit just like that, he says, while others would take longer.

Irreversibly fascinated, he has continued to study hypnosis by reading a lot on the subject and watching videos and "learning new [things] from other magicians."

He was trained in stage hypnosis mostly by colleague and friend Jason Hurley. He started his practice with partner Steve Jesse, also a stage hypnotist, in Toronto. He said Jesse helped him write his material.

"Stage hypnosis is very different from therapeutic hypnosis," explains Mana. "It's strictly entertainment and you'd be lucky if your suggestions would stay effective for five minutes."

He remembers that as a kid he watched a magician perform in a mall, and thought it was neat. But what really got him into it was learning a coin trick from a playmate.

"When you're able to amaze people once, you kinda want more," Mana says.

Thus, magic became a serious hobby. After high school, he took it on as a part-time

Modesty spe
boob-tu

HOST: This is such an interesting st you have here, full of so many r things! What time do you open?

Guest: *Ang open namin*, nine.

(Ah, please translate?)

* * *

Host: How much time do you dev to your business?

Guest: Oh, a lots!

(That much time, huh?)

* * *

Host: What about you, what busi do you have to bring in extra money ing these hard times?

Guest: *Meron kaming pagawaan n log.*

(*Ang ibig mong sabihin, manok?*)

* * *

Host: Some people say you are aga the president due to personal vende Is this true?

Guest: Definitely not. My compla against her are objective, completely to the inherent of the case!

(Well, inherently speaking, you've lost the case!)

* * *

Host: What do our young people n to do to become responsible citizen the nation?

Guest: They have to know their sponsibilities, in older to make strong

(Ay in older!)

* * *

Host: How can we keep our count borders secure, particularly in south?

Guest: We need faster boats for military to chase.

(Hey, who's chasing whom?)

* * *

Host: Congratulations on making the finals! Where will it be held?

Guest: It will be held in Chicago, windy Cindy!

(Hey, it rhymes! You should be a so writer!)

* * *

Host: What about the water in y town, is it safe to drink?

Guest: Don't worry, it's puttable w

(Well, if you put it that way...)

* * *

Host: You're so popular now, do think you deserve all the fame you're joying now?

Guest: Well, modesty speaking, *naman*, because I worked so hard to *sobra!*

(Ay, modesty speaking!)

* * *

Host: Why do you like going to beach on weekends?

Guest: Because it's really conduc to relax!

(Ay, conductive to relax!)

* * *

Host: what projects do you have l up for next year?

Guest: Frankly, I don't like plan

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4 (DOLBY) LEGEND OF ZORRO GP
PREMIERE
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2 SISID
3 (DTS) 40 YEARS OLD VIRGIN
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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2 FLIGHT PLAN
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 ISPIRITISTA

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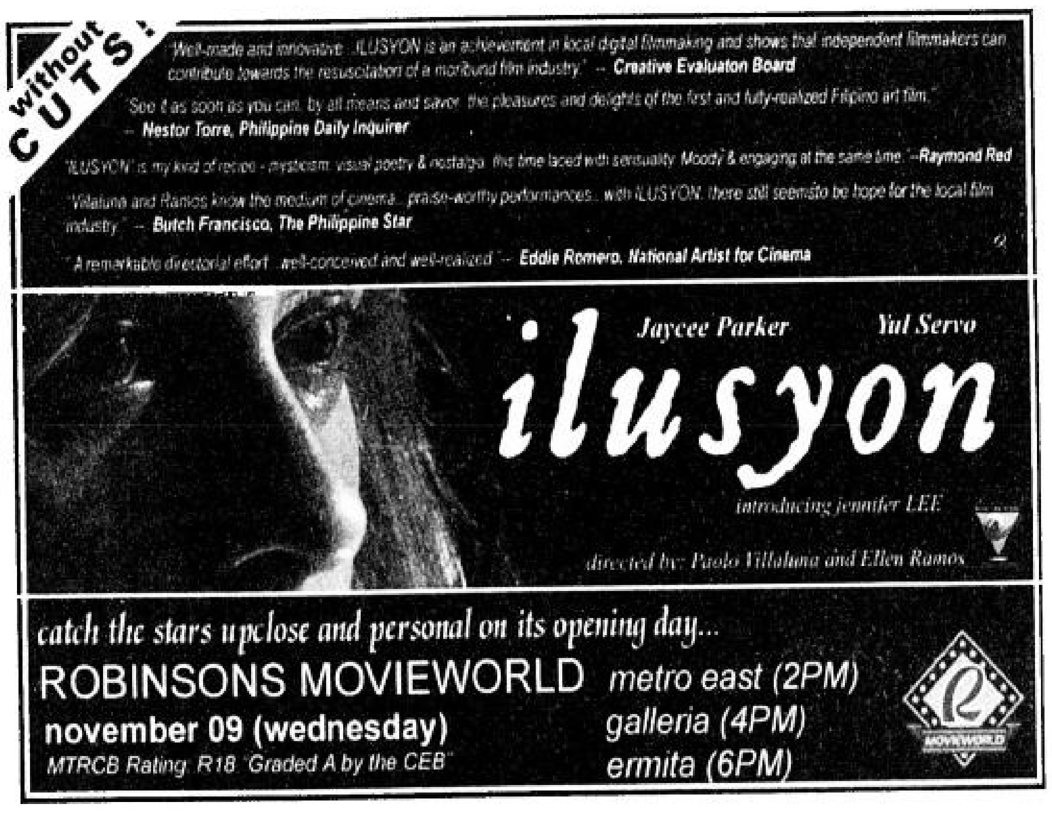

without CUTS!

"Well-made and innovative. ILUSYON is an achievement in local digital filmmaking and shows that independent filmmakers can contribute towards the resuscitation of a moribund film industry." -- Creative Evaluaton Board

"See it as soon as you can, by all means and savor the pleasures and delights of the first and fully-realized Filipino art film." -- Nestor Torre, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"ILUSYON" is my kind of recipe - mysticism, visual poetry & nostalgia, this time laced with sensuality. Moody & engaging at the same time." --Raymond Red

"Villaluna and Ramos know the medium of cinema... praise-worthy performances... with ILUSYON there still seemsto be hope for the local film industry." -- Butch Francisco, The Philippine Star

"A remarkable directorial effort... well-conceived and well-realized." -- Eddie Romero, National Artist for Cinema

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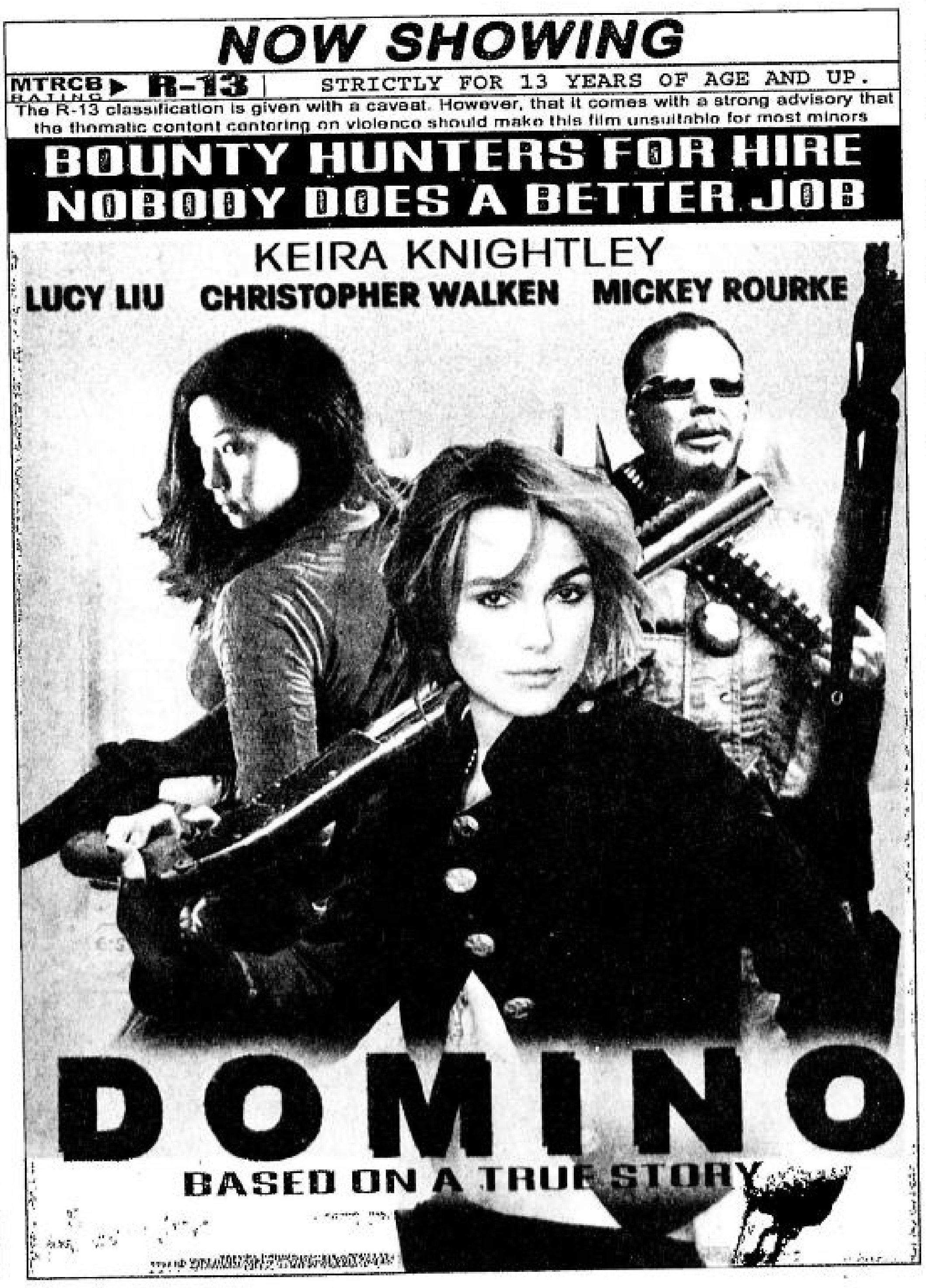

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KEIRA KNIGHTLEY
LUCY LIU CHRISTOPHER WALKEN MICKEY ROURKE
DOMINO
BASED ON A TRUE STORY

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gig and performed at parties.

Although his magic is tailored for a mature audience, Mana says he will never leave out kids. Magic knows no age, he explains—don't old people become like kids when watching magic?

Fulfillment

Filipinos are especially great as an audience, he says, because they love to laugh, and be amused and entertained.

But he has affected people in other ways as well. Sometimes, just looking at him makes people scared, Mana admits, all because he's a hypnotist. What he does, he says smiling, is to assure them, "Your secrets are safe with me."

Otherwise, a magician's fulfillment, he says, is the same as that which a clown experiences when he is able to make children laugh. "A magician goes for creating a sense of wonder and astonishment. Achieving that makes everything worthwhile for me."

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

that far ahead. I just play the ear for now!

"Merry Christmas"

THE INSPIRATIONAL film, "Merry Christmas," premiered to a standing ovation in Cannes last May. In the French movie, Diane Kruger plays Anna Sorensen, a Danish Soprano whose life is drastically changed when war breaks out in 1914.

Her singing partner Nikolaus, has to leave her. Other characters like the priest, Palmer, his church aide Jonathan and Lt. Audebert are also set to adrift.

When Christmas arrives, a momentous event turns the destinies of Anna, Nikolaus, Palmer and Audebert around. The unthinkable happens: rifles are left in the trenches as soldiers go, candles in hand, to shake the hands of those on the opposite side, and wish them Merry Christmas…

DID YOU KNOW...

Star Cinema's award-winning films "Milan" and "Tanging Yaman" will open the Filipino Film Festival at the Star Cinema Oriental Plaza in the Wang Fu Jing district in Beijing, China, from Nov. 23 to 29. The festival is part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of RP-China diplomatic relations.

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ILUSYON 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20	THE LEGEND OF ZORRO 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
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❷ FIGHT PLAN 1:10 / 3:30 / 5:50 / 8:10	❺ CRY WOLF 1:05 / 3:30 / 5:55 / 8:20
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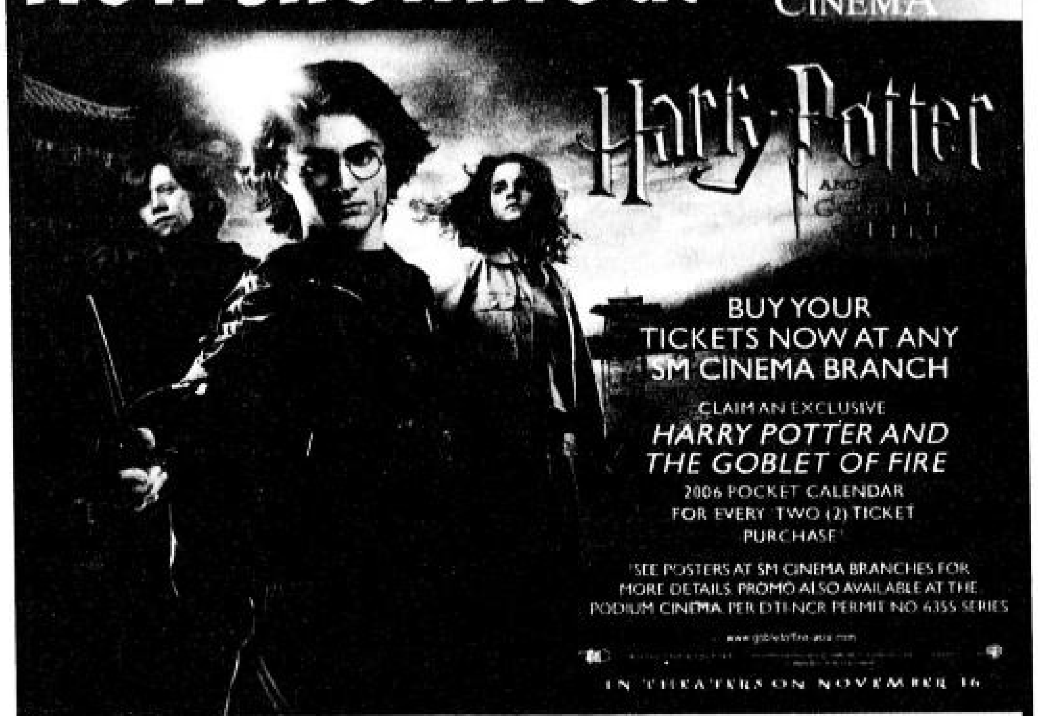

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1 FLIGHTPLAN 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO 12:20FS/12:50MF/03:30/06:10 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:10END
MEGAMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN 10:40FS/11:10MF/01:20/03:30/06:40/07:50 09:30LFS/10:00LMF/11:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO 11:20FS/11:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:40END
2 FLIGHTPLAN 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END
3 TRANSPORTER 2 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46 07:38/09:08LFS/09:30LMF/11:00END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
6 CRYWOLF
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 WAITING
9 ISPIRITISTA
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 LORD OF WAR
12 MY SASSY GIRL

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 CRY WOLF
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 DEUCE BIGALOW
7 DOOM
8 WAITING
9 THE GHOST INSIDE
10 DOMINO

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM VALENZUELA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 DOMINO

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 CRY WOLF
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 ISPIRITISTA
9 DOOM
10 DUBAI
11 MY SASSY GIRL
12 WAITING

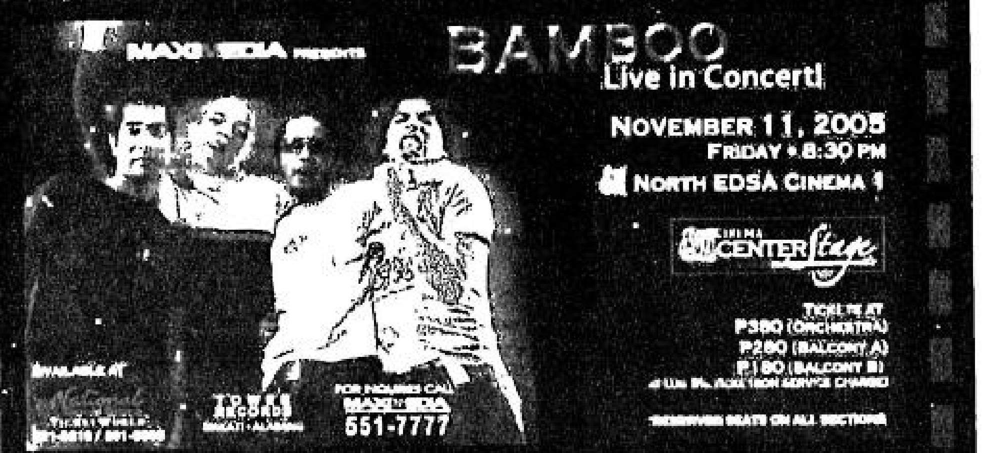
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 ISPIRITISTA
3 CRY WOLF
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DOOM
6 DOMINO
7 FOUR BROHTERS
8 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
9 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
10 WAITING

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 FOUR BROTHERS
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 DOOM
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 WAITING
5 CRY WOLF
6 AB-NORMAL BEAUTY
7 LEGEND OF ZORRO
8 FOUR BROTHERS

SM CITY MANILA
1 AB- NORMAL BEAUTY
2 FOUR BROTHERS
3 WAITING
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 DOMINO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM
9 MY SASSY GIRL
10 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
11 THE GHOST INSIDE
12 CRY WOLF

SM CINEMA ARANETA
1 CRY WOLF
2 LEGEND OF ZORRO
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 WAITING
5 ISPIRITISTA
6 ISPIRITISTA



LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
3 LEGEND OF ZORRO
4 WAITING/40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 FLIGTHPLAN

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WAITING
2 DOMINO
3 FLIGHTPLAN
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 ISPIRITISTA
7 FOUR BROTHERS
8 DOOM

SM CITY MARILAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

SM CITY LUCENA
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 INTO THE BLUE
3 ISPIRITISTA
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 LEGEND OF ZORRO
2 FLIGHTPLAN
3 TRANSPORTER 2
4 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
5 MY SASSY GIRL
6 UNDISCOVERED
7 ISPIRITISTA
8 DOOM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 MY SASSY GIRL
2 RESERVED
3 DOOM
4 ISPIRITISTA
5 LEGEND OF ZORRO
6 FLIGHTPLAN
7 RESERVED
8 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO
5 THE ADVENTURE OF SHARKBOY & LAVA GIRL
6 DOOM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 FLIGHTPLAN
2 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
3 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
4 LEGEND OF ZORRO

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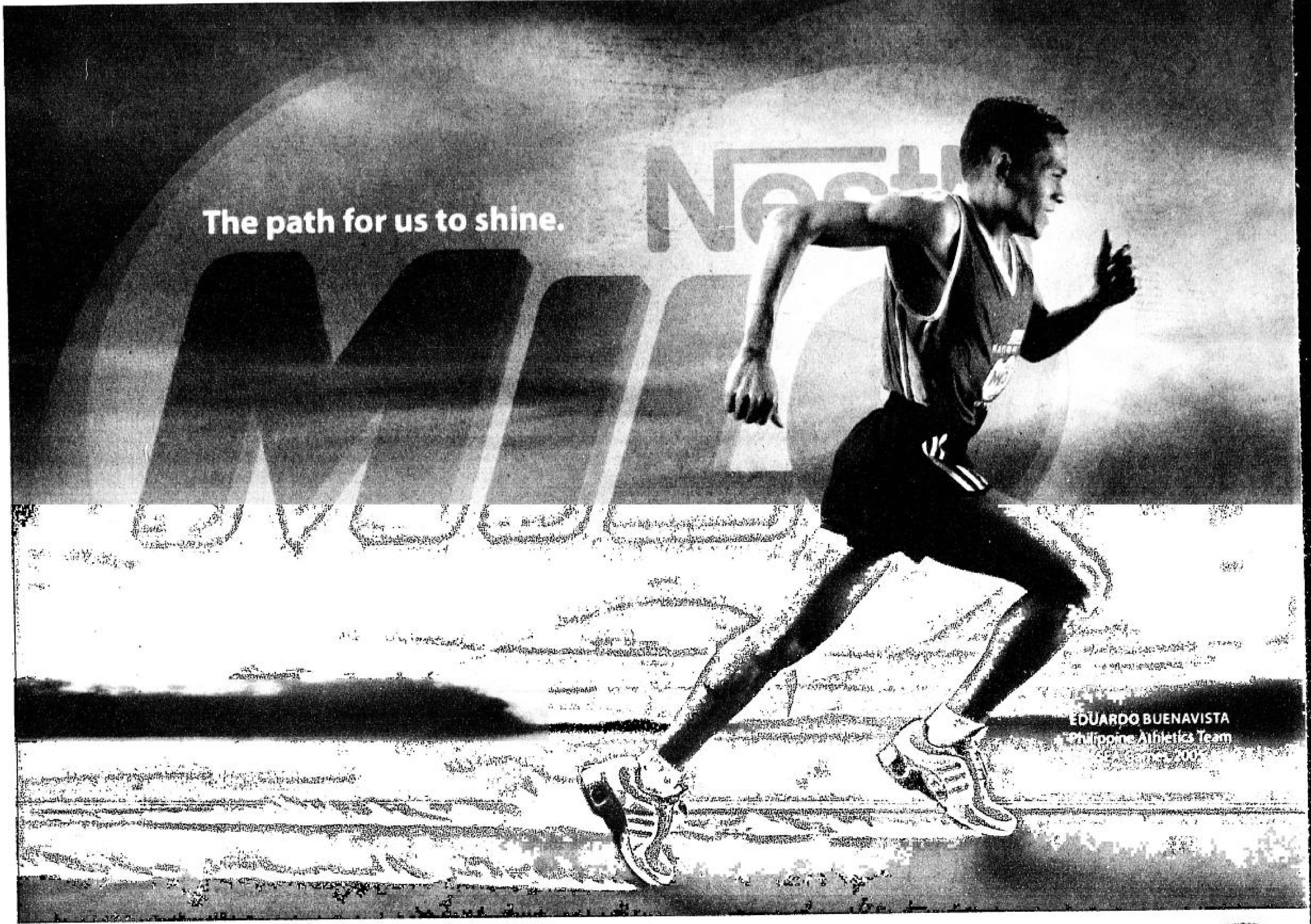
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WHAT'S INSIDE

McDonald's rethinks P450M strategy /B5
Finance proposes income tax rates reduction /B8

PLDT posts ₱25-B profit in 9 months

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CO. yesterday reported a net profit of P25 billion for the first nine months of 2005 and is now looking at a full-year net income of P32 billion, the company's top official said.

PANGILINAN

The company's total revenue actually dropped to P92.56 billion from P95.9 billion in the same period last year, but expenses eased as well to P59.4 billion from P67.6 billion.

Taking out foreign exchange gains, PLDT's January-to-September net earnings amounted to P23.2 billion, or up 14 percent from a year ago.

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan warned, however, that macroeconomic factors such as increasing prices of fuel, power and other commodities that affect consumers' purchasing power were going to challenge PLDT's finances next year.

"This situation is going to cut into the disposable income of consumers and that will influence the playing field for 2006," said the company chair. "We are keeping a lid on costs."

He said telltale signs of a potential slowdown were emerging, with third-quarter revenue falling slightly compared with the second quarter while wireless subscriber count during the period was unchanged from the first half at 20.8 million.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno was more optimistic, saying there was still room to grow revenue in the coming year by offering new mobile products and going into new technologies from which the company could eventually squeeze revenue.

Owing to the still robust performance of its wireless businesses Smart Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp., PLDT posted a net income of P8.2 billion from July to September, its

PLDT/ B4

Merrill Lynch, UBS turn bullish on RP

By Michelle V. Remo

INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT banks Merrill Lynch and UBS have projected a rosy picture for the Philippines, with the government seen to finally make a sustainable turnaround toward a healthy fiscal sector now that reform measures were in place.

The foreign banks attributed the positive outlook largely to the implementation of the new VAT law, revenues to be generated from which are expected to result in a declining debt level after a rising trend over the years.

"We think the implementation of the first part of the VAT (expanded VAT), if not reversed, will mark the beginning of the country's fiscal turnaround," UBS said in its latest research paper on the Philippines.

UBS said the removal of the VAT exemptions of oil and power, which it deemed to be the most difficult to implement among the law's provisions, sent a clear signal to investors on the government's political will to implement reforms.

Merrill Lynch said the country's revenue-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio could improve to 16 percent next year from only 14.5 percent in 2004 with the substantial proceeds from the new VAT law. The law is estimated to generate P81.4 billion in additional revenues a year.

"With the implementation of the expanded VAT law, the authorities appear on track to achieve strong fiscal consolidation and to address the public debt issue," Merrill Lynch said in a similar paper on the Philippine economy.

MERRILL/ B4

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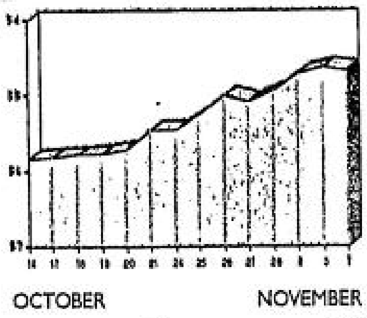

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 54.65 = $1

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¥ 117.88 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 8, 2005

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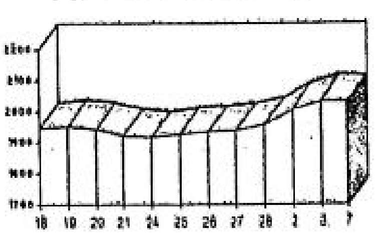
per ounce Hong Kong, Nov. 7, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.83% higher

SHARE PRICES closed up 0.83 percent yesterday, hitting five-month highs after market-leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT) posted record results which helped confirm the recent more positive tone, dealers said.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index rose 16.88 points to 2,046.93 after trading between 2,026.31 and 2,049.54. This was the best finish since 2,051.04 on June 6. Turnover was 359 million shares worth P1.04 billion.

The broader all-shares index advanced 8.37 points to 1,238.25.

Gainers led losers 45 to 26 and 46 stocks unchanged.

"Undoubtedly, today's rally was driven by PLDT," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

SHARES/ B5

ABC-5 gets ₱500M from new investors

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO INVESTORS HAVE SUBscribed to P500 million worth of capital in television and radio network operator ABC Development Corp., formerly Associated Broadcasting Co.

ABC is increasing its capital stock to P2 billion from P750 million to accommodate the fresh capital infusion.

In a report filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), investors Telemedia Business Ventures Inc. infused fresh capital worth $5.35 million (about P300 million) into ABC.

Another investor, Med Vision Resources Inc., subscribed to P200 million worth of capital in the television network.

Based on Telemedia's articles of incorporation, its primary purpose is to buy, subscribe, acquire, hold, sell or mortgage property and other securities and act as an investment company. Listed as its directors were Florentino Herrera III, Mary Rogelyn Cabrera, Rosalynn Vergara, Raoul Sontillano and Marguerite Pascual.

Med Vision is also an investment house with the same directors as Telemedia's.

ABC officials could not be reached as of press time to give more information about the new investors.

Among ABC's more prominent directors are Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco and Bank of Commerce president Raul de Mesa.

Based on its filing with the SEC, ABC's biggest shareholders are DM Archer Ventures with 36 percent, Upbeam Investments with 32.5 percent and First Clark Leisure and Resort Holding Corp. with 30 percent.

ABC currently has 15 stations and more than 100 cable TV affiliates countrywide.

It was first granted a congressional franchise in June 1960. ABC operated as a radio and television broadcasting network from 1960 until Sept. 21, 1972, when it was closed down during martial law.

After the Edsa revolution in February 1986, nationalist and ABC founder Don Chino Roces urged former President Aquino to reopen ABC.

New stockholders, led by broadcast veteran Edward U. Tan, are now running the network.

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BIOFUEL LAW

Alternative fuels seen just around the corner

By Abigail L. Ho

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES has finally passed a bill that will pave the way for the widespread use of biofuels, starting with the mandatory mixing of 5 percent ethanol with gasoline.

Two years upon approval of the law, all fuel to be sold will contain the 5-percent ethanol blend.

The author of the bill, Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, said the mandatory blend could then be jacked up to 10 percent, should government decide to recommend it.

The National Biofuels Board will be created to oversee the production and use of alternative fuels.

The mandatory blending of ethanol with gasoline will displace 10 percent of oil that the country imports each year, resulting in foreign exchange savings of P32 billion a year, Zubiri said.

The country last year consumed 115.6 million barrels of oil. Zubiri based his savings estimates on the consumption volume, the oil price of $50 a barrel, and exchange rate of P55 to a dollar.

Apart from the country's projected annual forex savings, consumers would also likely pay less for ethanol-blended gasoline as the biofuel would be VAT (value-added tax) zero-rated, he said.

This means that should gasoline with a 10-percent ethanol blend be sold now, this would be P10 cheaper than regular gasoline, Zubiri explained.

With the passage of the law, the resulting ethanol-gasoline blend would have a tax rate equivalent to that of unleaded gasoline, he said.

This tax rate would remain in effect for 10 years, notwithstanding future tax hikes for unleaded gasoline.

To encourage the entry of new investors in the sector, the proposed law should contain a wide range of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, Zubiri said.

The fiscal incentives include exemption from tariff duties on the importation of equipment and machinery.

One of the non-fiscal incentives under the biofuels bill is the classification of all ethanol production and blending investments as "pioneering" or "preferred areas of investment." This entails perks of its own.

Bio-ethanol producers will likewise be granted easier access to financing from the Development Bank of the Philippines, Land Bank of the Philippines and the Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.

The bill also requires the Tariff Commission to create a tariff line for bio-ethanol fuel.

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Delay in Napocor assets sale takes its toll on power sector reforms

THE DECISION OF THE POWER SECTOR Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) and the Department of Energy to again change the bidding schedules for the assets of the National Power Corp. has set back the restructuring of the power sector.

Lanao Del Norte Rep. Alipio Cirilo Badelles, House committee on energy chair, said the lack of competition in the industry was one of the main reasons for the high power rates in the country.

Competition would only be possible if Napocor assets were to be privatized, as mandated by RA 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

"While the Epira has mandated the privatization of the power plants of Napocor, records show that the privatization program is long delayed, and there seems to be no positive indication that this will be fasttracked," Badelles said in a statement yesterday.

He added that it had become almost "a standard pattern" for energy officials involved in the privatization process to suddenly revise the bidding schedules of assets.

In particular, he noted Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla's recent statement that the bidding for the 600-megawatt (MW) Calaca coal-fired power plant would not take place on Nov. 10 as scheduled, but would instead take place at a later date.

"Canceling scheduled biddings causes delays," he sxaid out.

Badelles also cited the privatization of the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession contract. He said bidding had been shelved several times in the past due to a number of reasons.

The latest revision involved the tentative scheduling of bids for the first quarter of next year, instead of within this quarter.

"PSALM and DOE have been reporting bright and positive scenarios to the oversight committee, but these are all on paper and are not supported by performance," Badelles said.

He added that it had been four years since the Epira was implemented. He pointed out that would have been enough time for energy officials to at least come close to meeting their targets. *Abigail L. Ho*

RP exporters eye trade fair to break into Chinese market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL FOOD EXPORTERS HAVE SET OUT for the Shenzhen Consumer Goods Procurement Fair to carve for themselves a larger slice of the lucrative Chinese market, according to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Thirteen firms, twelve of which are based in Mindanao, are taking part in the fair hoping to drive up sales which, in 2004, reached $36 million or about P1.9 billion from exports of banana chips alone.

The Shenzhen fair kicked off yesterday.

The DTI's Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, which organized the participation of the Philippine firms, said that the fair provided opportunities to tap one of China's model cities where multinationals like Walmart, Carrefour, and IBM have established their regional headquarters.

A Citem official also said that Guangdong in the South China region has a population of 175 million or 13.5 percent of the total population and is seen to offer much more than most other provinces in the mainland.

"The Greater Guangdong Province, where Shenzhen is located, is exhibiting fast economic expansion triggering a rise in food imports," the official said.

The official added that the Philippine participants are attracted to do business in Guangdong since it is home to four of China's special economic zones that allow the importation of goods at half the normal import duty rates.

The region enjoys the highest per capita income in China and the highest levels of investments from Hong Kong, he said.

Guangdong and Shenzhen are seen to be good markets for Mindanao's produce such as mangoes, bananas, pineapple, asparagus, coffee, coconut products, papaya, cashew nuts, nangka, tamarind, mangosteen, various plant oil and extracts.

The participating firms are Amley Food Corp., Chiquita Unifrutti Philippines, Dole Philippines Inc., Holsum Foods Inc., Koki Food International, Mabuhay 2000 Enterprises Inc., Marsman-Drysdale Agribusiness Group, Motherland Food Products, Philippine Fruits International Corp., Profood International Corp., Secura International Corp., See's International Food Manufacturing Corp. and Sunbliss Internationale Eximports.

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Designation: ____
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Tel: ____ Fax: ____
E-mail: ____ Mobile: ____
Industry: ____
Product Line / Service: ____
> What is the size of your company (in number of employees)?
☐ 1-50 ☐ 51-100 ☐ 101-250 ☐ Over 250
> What is your product / (s) of interest at the show? ____
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SMC's Australia subsidiary to expand gourmet business

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NATIONAL FOODS LTD., THE DAIRY SUBsidiary of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., sees its specialty cheese and gourmet food division growing into a A$200-million business by 2007.

A leading player in Australia's gourmet food category, National Foods has churned in roughly A$142 million in revenue so far this year, and has expanded its revenue by an average of 22.1 percent since 2002.

Last year, National Foods' revenues climbed 22 percent.

National Foods' top spot in the gourmet foods segment is built around high-value dairy products and premium brands such as King Island Dairy specialty cheese brand, South Cape, Tilba and Timboon.

Gourmet food and specialty cheese are categories that have consistently shown strong growth potential in Australia.

One of the division's main growth drivers lies in product innovation.

Almost 30 new products have been launched this year. The SMC unit generated about 18 percent of total sales revenues from products introduced over the last three years.

New offerings such as yogurt, a dessert line and crisp breads have gained wide consumer acceptance.

Apart from growing sales volume in Australia and neighboring New Zealand, San Miguel is looking to export King Island cheeses to the Philippines and selected countries in Southeast Asia.

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OF
GALLERIA

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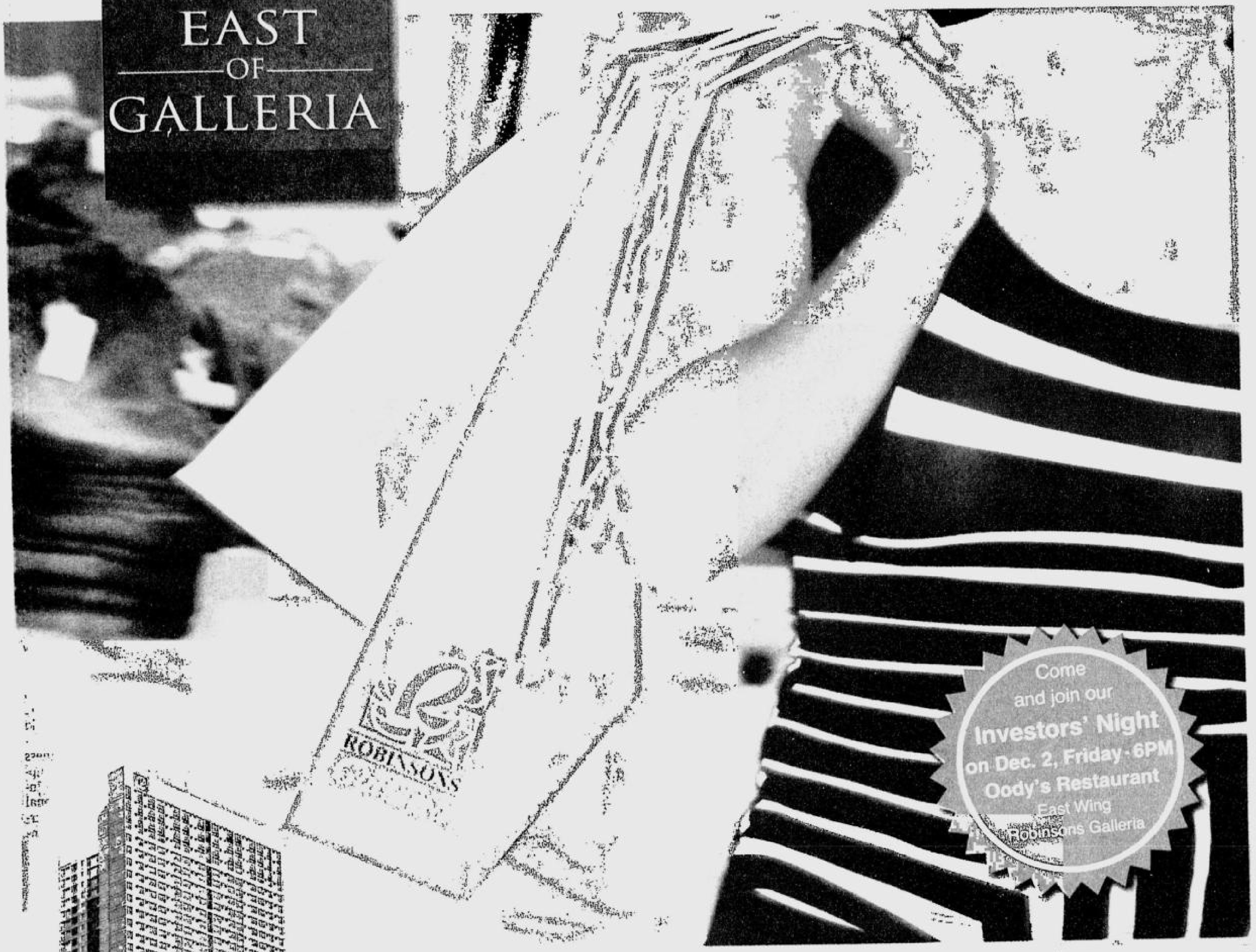

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and join our
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on Dec. 2, Friday 6PM
Oody's Restaurant
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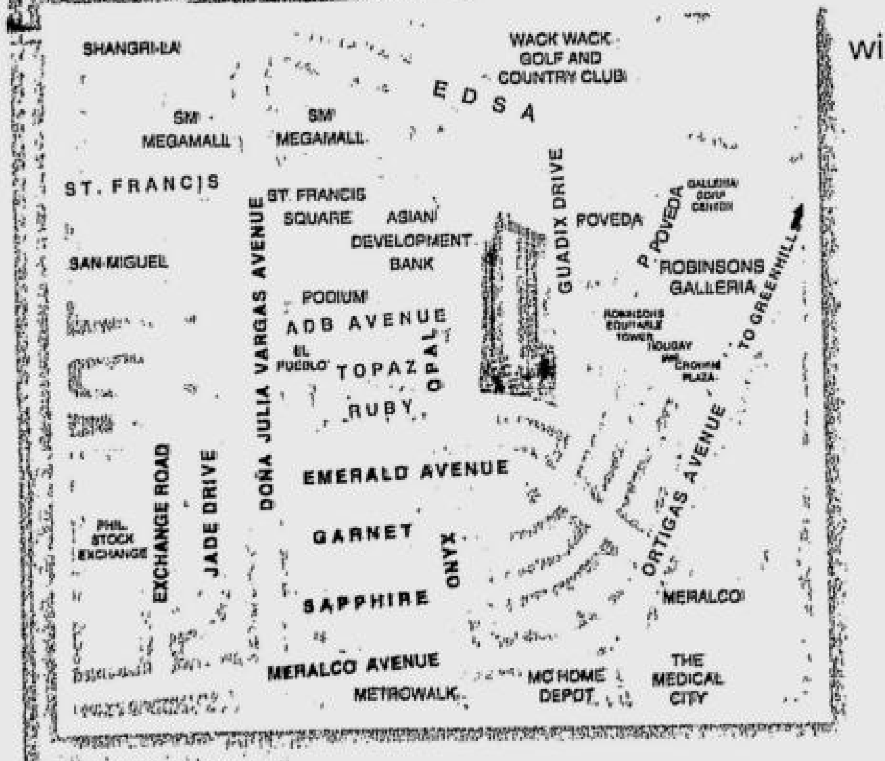
Robinsons Galleria

A unique and refreshing lifestyle is now here in the heart of Ortigas Center.

Welcome to East of Galleria, a 45-storey residential tower located in the midst of the bustling business district. It is conveniently located beside the very successful Robinsons Galleria Mall to cater to the residents' daily needs. Minutes away from major roads like EDSA and C-5, it is also within the vicinity of malls, banks, institutions and other major establishments.

East of Galleria truly embodies the ideal of comfort and convenience, offering the best of both worlds with the choice of either bi-level or loft-type units. Available in one, two and three-bedroom units, East of Galleria assures residents of utmost privacy in condo living as the master's bedroom is located a level above the dining, kitchen and living areas. High ceilings, airy atmosphere and expansive glass windows feature breathtaking views of the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club as well as a multitude of magnificent skylines.

At the heart of the busy city lies a comfortable and affordable home, here at East of Galleria.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VIOLATION OF STANDARDS

Splash coconut oil questioned

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE-BUREAU of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards (BAFPS) has questioned the quality of the flavored virgin coconut oil sold by Splash Inc.

In a letter to the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), the BAFPS said the approved standards for virgin coconut oil does not permit the use of food additives in the manufacture of VCO.

"As per the adopted Philippine National Standards of Virgin Coconut Oil, addition of food additives is not permitted," said BAFPS director Gilbert Layese in an Oct. 19 letter to BFAD. "Thus this marketing strategy of Splash Inc. is thereby liable for the violation of this standard."

Lourdes Sarmiento, Splash Inc. managing director for research, said the company was prepared to respond to the clarifications of BFAD and BAFPS, although Splash has not been formally informed of the violations.

"We maintain that the health benefit of our VCO product is maintained in spite of the flavoring we have added. We have made it more palatable and acceptable to our consumers," said Sarmiento in a phone interview yesterday.

She noted that the company could challenge the standards because Splash was not part of the group that drafted it.

There are about 23 VCNO manufacturers in the country, each one following its own product quality standards, said the Philippine Coconut Authority.

The PCA issued interim minimum quality standards for the production of VCO to bolster its acceptance in the global market.

The Philippine National Standard (PNS) for VCNO has sent positive signals to potential markets that the industry was serious in setting acceptable standards.

Members of the group that worked on the guidelines include the Department of Science and Technology, University of the Philippines Los Baños-Biotech, UP Diliman, BAFPS and members of the Virgin Coconut Oil Producers and Traders Association of the Philippines (Vcopta).

Previously, PCA Deputy Administrator for research, development and extension Carlos Carpio said setting quality standards was critical if the fledgling industry was to reach its full potential.

"It is a very promising export industry and realizing the need to come up with quality standards should prevent other manufacturers from taking short cuts in their processes, or even adulterating the product to cut costs," he said.

"We have seen that happening with the nata de coco before and the potentials of the industry were never realized because of poor manufacturing practices," Carpio added.

'Not fair,' says Merrill Lynch of Gokongwei offer for UIC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MERRILL LYNCH (SINGAPORE) PTE. LTD., the financial adviser of the board of Singapore property giant United Industrial Corp., described as "not fair" the offer made by the group of taipan John Gokongwei Jr. to take over the company.

Merrill Lynch said in a letter to independent directors that shareholders would be better off selling their shares in the open market if they wanted to recover all or part of their investments in UIC and sell their shares at a price higher than the Gokongwei group's offer of S$1.09 a share.

Merrill Lynch said Summit's offer price represented a 1.8-percent discount to UIC's closing price of S$1.11 last Oct. 4 or the day before the takeover offer was announced on Oct. 6.

Analysts said that for Gokongwei's Summit Top Investments Ltd. to win control, it should hike its offer.

JG Summit Holdings Inc. president and Lance Gokongwei declined to comment when asked whether JG Summit subsidiary Summit Top would hike its bid for UIC.

Gokongwei just said he was aware of Merrill Lynch's advice to independent directors of UIC.

UIC is a conglomerate with interests in real estate through its controlling interest in Singapore Land, one of the biggest office developers in Singapore's central business district.

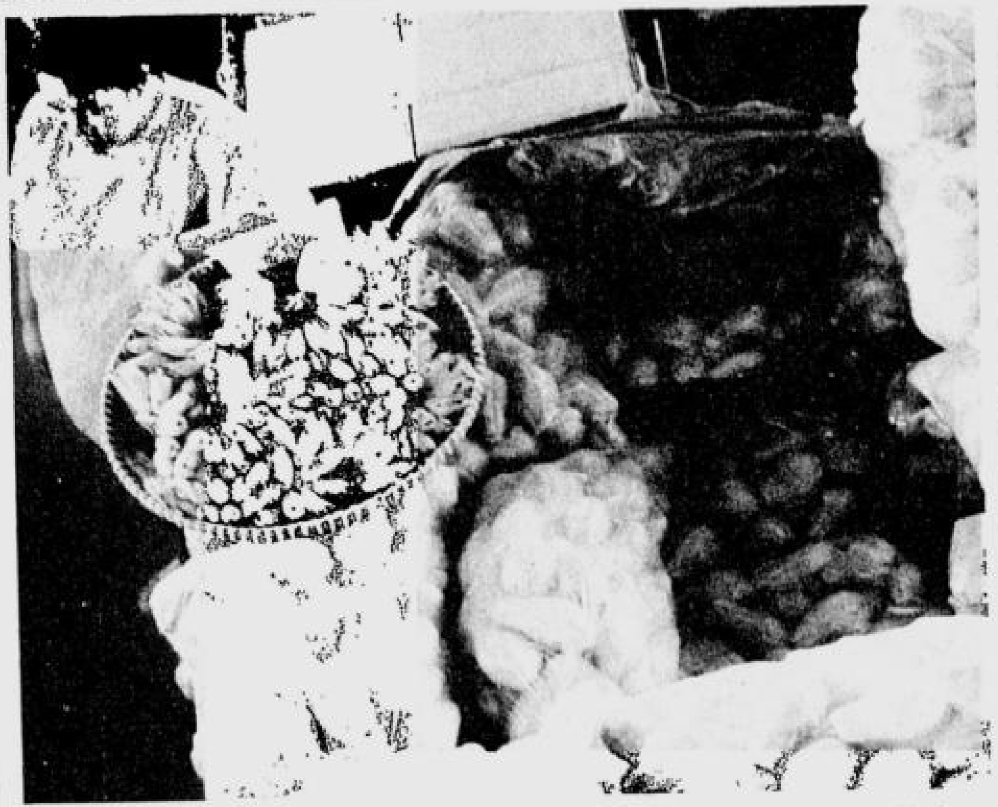
UIC was incorporated in July 1963, dealing mainly in detergents and toiletries. It became a publicly traded firm in June 1969.

Summit Top Investments Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JG Summit Philippines, offered to take over UIC after the group hiked its combined stake in the Singapore company to 30 percent.

Telegraph—an indirectly owned subsidiary of Gokongwei flagship firm JG Summit Holdings Inc.—owns 29.99 percent of UIC.

Summit Top, on the other hand, bought 50,000 UIC shares at S$1.09 a share, bringing the group's total stake to 30 percent of UIC.

The UIC Group owns 72.42 percent of Singapore Land, one of the biggest office developers in the city-state's central business district.



GREEN GOLD. Generally, vegetables are exempted from the expanded value-added tax, but as oil and power prices climb, so will these vegetables and fruits from the Cordillera.

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Bayantel upgrades Internet line

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC. HAS upgraded its Internet backbone to the United States and Japan, which will provide faster Internet connection for its customers and allow it to attract new subscribers.

The Lopez phone company has tied up with American firm MCI Global for the backbone to the US, and with NTT Global for its link-up with Japan.

The upgrade will make Bayantel's Internet backbone one of the largest in the country, said Bayantel in a statement.

Bayantel, a unit of Benpres Holdings Inc., is banking on the Internet business to drive revenues.

Joevel Rivera, Bayantel vice president for product development, said the company's Internet subscribers have more than doubled since the start of the year and demand remained strong.

The interconnection with MCI complements the existing US backbone links of Bayantel with Teleglobe and AT&T.

The upgrade ensures congestion-free access to Web servers and websites hosted in the US and Europe, said the company.

The Lopez phone company said it would continue to expand its international capacity to support the demand for broadband services and to support its plan to map out the so-called triple play strategy—the convergence of voice, video and Internet.

Bayantel said it would leverage on its affiliates, such as ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and SkyCable, to deliver more services.

"Given ABS-CBN's efforts to further strengthen its creative content in multiple formats targeting niche audiences and Sky Cable's expansion of its distribution channels, the three companies are in the midst of converging technologies that would change the way information and entertainment is delivered to households," said Tunde Fafunwa, Bayantel's chief consultant.

"Further down the road, we see a lot of emerging technologies which can further take the synergy further, such as IPTV and video on demand that would complement the distribution platforms of BayanTel and Sky Cable and the rich trove of creative content in ABS-CBN," he added.

PLDT posts P25-B profit in 9 months

From page B1

highest quarterly profit (excluding one-time gains).

PLDT said it restated the third quarter 2004 profit to P9.75 billion, of which P6.6 billion was recurring. The adjustment reflected in part a P4-billion gain from the sale of Piltel's debt and equity to Smart.

Piltel reported a net profit of P6.9 billion in the first nine months, up by more than six times from a restated P975-million net income in the same period in 2004.

"The consensus now is that we will hit P30 billion in core earnings for the year plus about P1.8 billion in foreign exchange gains. That will give us P31-P32 billion by yearend," Pangilinan said.

Nazareno said he believed that fourth-quarter revenue would recover and surpass the third-quarter level.

While external factors were beyond PLDT's control, Pangilinan said the company would try to sustain the growth in profit by developing new products and looking at new markets.

On the cost side, the company would pay down debts to reduce interest expense and manage capital spending.

By the end of the year, PLDT would have settled at least $700 million in debts and this would save the company about P3 billion in interest expenses a year, Pangilinan said. By end-2005, PLDT's outstanding obligations would have dropped to about $2 billion from $3 billion last year.

Given the decreased debt burden, Nazareno said the impact of every peso adjustment in the foreign exchange rate was down to P1.7 billion from P2 billion at the start of the year.

Aggressive expansion in previous years meant that this year, the company need not roll out as heavily as before. Capital expenditures in the wireless and fixed line were lower than planned, thus boosting PLDT's free cash to P50 billion by year's end, according to Pangilinan.

The money will be spent to pay debts and dividends to common shareholders.

Of the projected earnings per share of P160 to P170 this year, Pangilinan said PLDT still has between P22 and P26 in dividends it would declare by December.

Prospects of PLDT's other ventures appeared rosy. Nazareno said the call center business was expanding and revenue was up 51 percent as of end-September.

At the end of the third quarter, ePLDT had 3,315 seats against 1,736 a year ago.

The high-speed Internet product of PLDT already had 76,000 subscribers as of end-September against 49,500 a year ago. The number did not include 12,500 customers of Smart and its unit Meridian Telekoms Inc., both of which operate separate wireless broadband businesses.

Merrill Lynch, UBS turn bullish on RP

From page B1

Merrill Lynch noted that the debt level in the Philippines had been worrisome, with the national government debt already reaching 79 percent of GDP last year from only 54 percent in 1996. Public sector debt, which includes that of local governments and state-owned firms, was already at 98 percent of GDP, it added.

The new VAT law, together with other measures such as civil service and tax administration reforms, would provide a better fiscal picture for the Philippines starting 2006, Merrill Lynch said.

Merrill Lynch has given an "overweight" assessment of the Philippines. An "overweight" assessment is a recommendation for investors to buy a country's debt papers.

As a market response to the projected improvement in the Philippines's fiscal sector, UBS said, the peso-dollar exchange rate could average at 53-to-$1 by end-2006. This was better than its previous projection of a P56-to-$1 exchange rate by the end of next year.

UBS also said the Philippines' 10-year bonds would fetch lower rates in the secondary market, declining to only 10.5 percent next year from a little less than 12 percent. It said the stock market was also expected to perform better in 2006, with the Phisix landing at a 12-month average of 2,300.

While there are fears that the political problem might hinder the gains on the economic front, UBS said the proposed Charter change was expected to address the issue and calm volatility on the political side.

"In our view, a parliamentary system, whereby the members of parliament could elect the country's prime minister, increases the likelihood that the next leader is selected based on qualification rather than popularity," UBS said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 8, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	32	33.5	32	33.5	2,078,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	57.5	59	57.5	59	2,223,200
China Banking Corp.	605	610	605	605	760
Citystate Savings Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.62	0.63	5,630,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50.5	50	50.5	69,900
International Exch. Bank	19.5	19.75	19.5	19.75	53,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	489,400
Philippine National Bank	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	12,400
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	81,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2965	3000	2965	3000	840
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	109,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2040	2045	2040	2045	1,160
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	120,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.97	0.93	0.97	4,860,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	720	720	715	715	34,670
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	93,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	300,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	7,594,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1720	1790	1720	1780	97,400
Ivantage Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	110,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	2,000,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14	14.25	14	14.25	53,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.5	22.25	21.25	22.25	2,347,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.4	6.6	7,263,000
Petron Corp.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.75	8,105,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.8	9.7	9.8	684,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.68	0.7	70,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.58	0.59	120,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.75	3.9	626,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.62	260,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	10,100
Jollibee Foods Corp.	39	39	38.5	38.5	144,200
Pancake House Inc.	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.8	4,059,000
RFM Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	95,000
San Miguel Corp. B	89	89.5	89	89.5	32,200
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	2,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.25	16.25	16	16	6,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	480,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.007	30,000,000
Ayala Corp.	310	312.5	305	310	209,680
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5	4.95	4.95	726,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	3,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	70,000
APC Group Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	70,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.08	1.1	9,680,000
A Brown Company Inc.	1	1	1	1	120,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,440,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.3	2,334,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	44.5	1,229,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	182,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.42	9,822,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.34	13,980,000
Paxys Inc.	5	5.1	5	5	1,473,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	850,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	219,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
SM Investments Corp.	244	244	237	239	198,970
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.125	2,330,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.075	0.0775	800,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.9	0.94	0.9	0.93	4,820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.77	0.78	0.75	0.75	190,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.42	1.44	1.42	1.44	461,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.5	15	14.5	15	679,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	15,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.9	5,183,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	400,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.245	2,300,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	1,210,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	5,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.4	1.36	1.4	5,111,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	30,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,850,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	458,000
SM Development Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	1,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.1	8.1	816,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.7	321,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.2	8.4	8.2	8.3	95,000
Benguet Corp. B	32	36	32	35	5,600
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	20,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	8,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.235	7,280,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	23,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	45,300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	4,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	2,087,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.26	5,200,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27.5	26.5	27.5	3,827,600
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	350,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	36,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	30,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	310,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	147,000
Sinophil Corp	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	9,010,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000

DISCLOSURES

BOULEVARD Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 2, 11 a.m. at the Social Hall A on the third floor of One Roxas Triangle, Cruzada Street corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. All stockholders on record as of Nov. 4 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***

BANCO de Oro signed on Nov. 7 a placement and market maker agreement with Standard Chartered Bank. Interest rate was set at 9.73 percent a year fixed for five years. Target issue date is on Nov. 23.

***

THE BOARD of directors of **Panasonic Manufacturing Philippines Corp.** on Nov. 7 approved a 20-percent cash dividend equivalent to P0.20 per share for stockholders on record as of Dec. 2, payable on Dec. 20.

***

SAN MIGUEL Corp. listed an additional 73,807 common shares yesterday, Nov. 8, bringing the total number listed under the company's plan to 10.42 million common shares. ***Compiled by Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

November 8, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846740	1.000000	54.7800
Japan	Yen	0.007201	0.008504	0.4658
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478069	1.745600	95.6240
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109223	0.128992	7.0662
Switzerland	Franc	0.648892	0.766342	41.9802
Canada	Dollar	0.713465	0.842602	46.1577
Singapore	Dollar	0.497965	0.588097	32.2160
Australia	Dollar	0.620004	0.732225	40.1113
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.247783	2.654632	145.4207
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225785	0.266652	14.6072
Brunei	Dollar	0.496506	0.586373	32.1215
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000099	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.020667	0.024408	1.3371
UAE	Dirham	0.230537	0.272264	14.9146
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.181000	64.6952
Argentina	Peso	0.284858	0.336417	18.4289
Brazil	Real	0.385057	0.454752	24.9115
Denmark	Kroner	0.133986	0.158238	8.6683
India	Rupee	0.018496	0.021844	1.1960
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224224	0.264809	14.5062
Mexico	New Peso	0.079094	0.093410	5.1170
New Zealand	Dollar	0.575270	0.679394	37.2172
Norway	Kroner	0.128514	0.151775	8.3142
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014200	0.016770	0.9187
South Africa	Rand	0.126195	0.149036	8.1642
Korea	Won	0.000807	0.000953	0.0522
Sweden	Kroner	0.104074	0.122911	6.7331
Syria	Pound	0.016312	0.019264	1.0556
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025169	0.029724	1.6283
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000395	0.000466	0.0255

McDonald's rethinks P450M strategy

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NOW THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN over operational control from the Americans, McDonald's partners George Yang and Andrew Tan have gone to the extent of even reviewing the performance of the fast-food chain's advertising and marketing campaign.

Very quietly, the two partners invited two current agencies, Hemisphere Leo Burnett and DDB, to pitch for the chain's substantial ad account, with the two agencies making their presentations Monday.

According to the industry grapevine, Hemisphere Leo Burnett, whom the previous American principals had favored, has over the years held the lion's share of the estimated P200-million media account.

Including the more-profitable, below-the-line accounts, the local McDonald's total ad/marketing expeditures could run up to P450 million annually.

Despite being the biggest McDonald's operations in the region, the Philippine franchisee of the American hamburger giant is running a distant second to the homegrown Jollibee.

As of end-June, Jollibee had a total of 508 local stores, while its American model only had, as of yesterday, 256 branches.

Jollibee reported having allocated P730 million in advertising and promotional expenses for 2004, but the amount also includes expenses for Chowking, Delifrance and other subsidiaries.

Contrarian play

WHILE the big boys are trying to trim their real estate holdings, the Singapore-backed CityState Savings Bank is now on an acquisition mode, even advertising its intention to acquire corner lots for future branches.

CityState president Alfred Cabangon says the thrift bank is following the Metrobank strategy, which prefers to own rather than lease the property on which its branches are built.

CityState has already closed one deal in Cubao, involving a corner property at Aurora and Pinatubo, and is in advanced talks with two other property owners since the bank shifted to a buy mode.

Money-go-round

- STOCKBROKER Francisco Borromeo and wife Memel Fernan are now the object of a nasty Internet campaign from brokerage clients who claim to have lost a total of P120 million in placements.
- SYSMART and SM Development reported a combined 14.32-percent stake in Belle Corp. as of end-2004. By the end of last month, the combined shareholdings of the two Henry Sy holding companies within the property and gaming company had risen to more than 22.4 percent.
- THE MANILA Yacht Club may be on shakier financial footing than the Manila Polo Club and the Manila Golf Club, but at least the yacht club now has a website to boast of.

The website, www.manilayachtclub.org, even has the day's weather conditions for Manila, courtesy of a link with msnbc.com.

Heard through the grapevine

KITTY Go, the Kitty Kelly of the Philippines, will unleash the second installment of her "fictional" tattle-tale of Manila's high society, "When Chic Hits the Fan," by the end of the month.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Shares close 0.83% higher

From page B1

PLDT closed up P60 to P1,780 after hitting a record high of P1,790 immediately after the company unveiled its results during the last hour of trading. *(See story on Page B1.)*

"I think the stock reaching the 2,000 level is just a ring away. It's a clear signal from here on," Del Castillo said.

He said PLDT was highly likely to achieve its net profit target for the full year of P29 billion because the last three months is typically the strongest season for telecommunication firms.

PLDT's result sparked hopes other companies will report upbeat earnings.

Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro said the market might need to consolidate before staging another rally, having gained 6 percent after the government started collecting from Nov. 1 an expanded sales tax to cut its massive budget deficit.

PLDT unit Pilipino Telephone advanced 15 centavos to P3.25.

Bank of the Philippine Islands gained P1.50 to P59, while parent Ayala Corp. ended unchanged at P310. Ayala Land fell 10 centavos to P8.90.

San Miguel "A" was flat at P65 and San Miguel "B" retreated 50 centavos to P89.50. *AFP*

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3 months	3.2500%	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%
6 months	3.3750%	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%
12 months	3.4375%	3.5000%	3.6250%	3.7500%

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Crown Asia's Presidio: Dreams timely fulfilled

With a track record for creating master-planned neighborhoods for more than a decade, Crown Asia redefines urban living with the creation of its first vertical project, Presidio at Brittany Bay.

In a recent topping off ceremony, Crown Asia marked the partial completion of the first tower, the Da Vinci with its full-swing construction right on schedule. Turn over of units to home owners is expected by March 2006.

A 6.8 hectare "city by the bay," Presidio at Brittany Bay draws inspiration from San Francisco's neo-Victorian architecture to create a 16-tower complex with low and mid rise condominium buildings interplaying in height and size. The self contained multi-level hub complements the urbanite's busy lifestyles.

Da Vinci Tower. A comfortable and charming mixed-use condo with creative space utilization suited for professional singles or young families. Commercial areas occupy the ground level of the 5 storey condo.

Michelangelo Tower. This 10-storey versatile garden condo rise offers the largest selection of model units: the typical model units suited for independent individuals with 1 bedroom; the loft-type or bi-level units with elegant floor design and garden units and the penthouse units equipped with expansive living space.

Rembrandt Tower. Another mixed-use condo of ingenious design and architecture, the Rembrandt presents a feeling of exclusivity and avoids clutter with only 5 units per floor.

Picasso Tower. A prestigious garden condo residence with walkways left open to cool air and surrounded by lush greens. The garden-inspired Picasso Tower, is a 3-winged 7-storey rise.

Monet Tower. At the heart of the development is the tallest among the y-shaped garden condo rise. This 3-winged, 12-storey structure offers the best vista of the bay and mountains.

Presidio is distinguished from other space-deprived condominiums with the harmonious marriage of unspoiled nature and the practicality of vertical living.

Presidio is conveniently located at the boundary of bustling Sucat and the thriving City of Taguig.

For inquiries, visit or call Presidio at Brittany Bay. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown Towers at tel. nos. 718 3400 and 718 3402

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With the property values skyrocketing around the city, the solution to living close to the city is to go vertical. The Presidio at Brittany Bay presents condo living with that relaxing garden atmosphere.

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THE
CATHOLIC
MASS
MEDIA
AWARDS

Vice President Noli "Kabayan" De Castro keynotes CMMA rites

V.P. Noli "Kabayan" de Castro CMMA guest speaker.

The Catholic Mass Media Awards Ceremonies were held recently at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza in Makati City with Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro as guest of honor. He was introduced by Amb. Antonio Cabangon L. Chua, CMMA Chairman & President. Vice President de Castro congratulated the awardees of the prestigious CMMA–now on its 27th year of continued dedication to the promotion of effective and responsible media communication.

Vice Pres. de Castro's program "Magandang Gabi Bayan" was two-time CMMA awardee as Best Public Service Program in 1988 and 1992.

Out of 795 entries, 55 were declared winners and 13 given special citations.

The Ridge of the PAREF-Southridge School was elevated to the Hall of Fame for having won for 4 years as Best High School Student Organ. San Juan de Letran bagged 5 of the Student Awards.

The CMMA Foundation is headed by Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, D.D., Honorary Chairman; Amb. Antonio L. Cabangon Chua, Chairman & President; Antonio A. Henson, Vice Chairman; Juan P. Dayang, Board Secretary; Philip E. Juico, Treasurer; Evelina I. Atienza; Gen. Manuel C. Roxas; Engr. Feorelio M. Bote; Rosie Lovely T. Romulo, Board Members, & Quintin P. Pastrana, Project Director.

Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, CMMA Honorary Chairman calls on media practitioners to promote understanding, dispell prejudice and bring about unity and harmony

Serviam Awardee Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J.

This year's Serviam Awardees for outstanding contributions to the CMMA goals & objectives were led by Fr. James B. Reuter, Knowledge Channel, with special citations to Reyster Langit, Haribon Foundation & Gil Chua.

Gina Lopez-Bautista of Knowledge Channel, receives the Institutional Serviam Award

Showbiz stars who performed included: Jamie Rivera,Brenan Espartinez, Jolina Magdangal, Jay-R, Jaya, Kyla, Karylle, Jerome Salas, Frenchie Dy, Jonalyn Viray, Sheryn Regis, Rachelle Ann Go, Jed Madela and Mark Bautista, with the Hotlegs dancers and the UP Concert Chorus.

Bishop Gabriel Reyes of the Diocese of Antipolo led presentors together with Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, Fr. Roy Rosales and Fr. Gaudioso Sustento. Media & showbiz presentors included Precious Hipolito, Butch Francisco, Boots Anson-Roa, Roxanne Barcelo, Paolo Contis, Rhea Santos, Cheche Lazaro, Arnold Clavio, Love Añover, Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola-Babao, Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco, Vicky Morales, Angelica Jones, Nadine Samonte, Bernadette Sembrano, Pauleen Luna & Alfred Vargas.

Main hosts Christine Jacob-Sandejas and TJ Manotoc

The Catholic Mass Media was launched in 1978 by the late Manila Archbishop Jaime L. Cardinal Sin to give recognition to media and practitioners who made outstanding contributions to God & country.

This year's theme "The Communications Media: At the Service of Understanding Among Peoples" takes off from the late Pope John Paul II during the 2005 World Communications Day. "For fostering harmony and reconciliation" & "promoting peace and building bridges between peoples" and "tearing down walls of hostility in our world".

CMMA Trustees Juan P. Dayang, Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, Amb. Antonio Cabangon L. Chua, Gen. Manuel Roxas, Engr. Feorelio Bote share a light moment with Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro.

And the winners are...

"The Ridge" of Paref Southridge School - Hall of Fame awardee.

2005 AWARDEES

PRINT

Best Investigative Report–Abortion During Chemotherapy: An Ethical Question by Resty Maglalang of The Big C. *Best Short Story*– Amada by Rowena Angeles of Gospel Komiks Magazine. *Best Sports Column*– Sporting Chance by Joaquin M. Henson of The Philippine Star. *Best Local Community/Parish Newspaper*–The Bosconian Forum by Don Bosco Technical College. *Best Business Column*–Commonness by Bong R. Osorio of The Philippine Star. *Best Opinion Column*–Hope & Childhood Memories in a Sawmill by Wilson Lee Flores of The Philippine Star. *Best Comic Strip*–Love Knots by Elizabeth Chionglo of Philippine Daily Inquirer. *Best News Coverage*–Medical Brain Drain by Blanche Rivera & Tina Arceo-Dumlao of Philippine Daily Inquirer. *Best Special Feature*–The Church Response to the Clergy Crisis Today by Bishop Luis Tagle, D.D. of Rogate Ergo Asia. *Best Entertainment Column*–Maria Kennedy Shriver-The Governator's Secret Weapon by Wilson Lee Flores of The Philippine Star. *Best Children's Magazine*–JC.Kom by Foundation for Christ Love-Asia. *Best News Photograph*–Sea Traders by Edwin Bacasmas of Philippine Daily Inquirer. *Best Youth Magazine*– Crossroads Magazine by CMN Asia/ Rex Publishing. *Best Editorial Cartoon*–Values Education by Gilbert Daroy of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Angelica Jones, Bernadette Sembrano and Nadine Samonte with Wilson Lee Flores awardee of Best Opinion Column - Hope & Childhood Memories in a Sawmill- The Philippine Star

MUSIC

Best Music Video–ABS-CBN 2005 Summer Station ID. Best Religious Album–The Joys of Healing by Star Records.

CINEMA

Best Picture–Minsan Pa by MLR Films.

Atty. Joji Alonzo of MLR Films receives the Best Picture award from Boots Anson-Roa.

GMA 7's Mel Tiangco receives the Best Talk Show award for "Mel & Joey" as Mike Enriquez, Tintin Bersola-Babao, and Julius Babao look on.

ADVERTISING

Best Public Service Print Ad–Pondo ng Pinoy "Pencil" (Caritas Manila) by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi. *Best Branded Print Ad*–Lent (PLDT) by DDB Philippines. *Best Public Service Outdoor Ad*–Womb (Teodora) by DDB Philippines. *Best Branded Outdoor Ad*–Bunso by Don Bosco Technical College. *Best Public Service TV Ad*–Brigada Eskwela (Department of Education) by GV Productions. *Best Branded TV Ad*–Cellphone/ Bully/ Graffiti (Jollibee) by McCann Erickson Phils. *Best Public Service Radio Ad*–TSK!TSK! (Hands on Manila) by TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno. *Best Branded Radio Ad*–Littany (Petron) by Ace Saatchi & Saatchi.

Alberto Joaquin of Ace Saatchi & Saatchi receives the Best Public Service Print Ad & Best Branded Radio Ad award.

RADIO

Best Entertainment Program–The RX Concert Series - Monster Radio Rx 93.1. *Best News Commentary*–Tambalang Failon at Sanchez - DZMM. *Best Special Event Coverage*–Super Radyo-DZBB Typhoon Coverage - DZBB. *Best Business News or Feature*–Radyo Negosyo–DZMM. *Best Drama Program*–Mom's Vineyard–Different Stories About God's Kingdom - SBN-Mom's Radio Cagayan De Oro. *Best Educational Program*–Gabay Kalusugan - DZMM. *Best News Program*–Super Balita sa Umaga - DZBB. *Best Counseling & Public Service Program*–Afternoon Chat Special–Mama Says Papa Says-SBN-Mom's Radio Cagayan de Oro.

Best Drama Program
Mom's Vineyard–
Different Stories About God's Kingdom
SBN–Mom's Radio Cagayan De Oro

INTERNET

Best Website–genrev.net by Genrev Student Network, and www. prolife.org.ph by Pro-Life Phil. Foundation.

Marc Nelson winning the Best Sports TV Show "Sports Unlimited"– ABS-CBN 2

Elizabeth Chionglo cartoonist of "Love Knots", Best Comic Strip awardee, Isagani Yambot, Inquirer publisher receives the Best News Coverage & Best News Photo, with Gilbert Daroy, the Best Comic Strip awardee.

Bob del Rosario of IBC 13 receives the Best Adult Educational Program award for "Good Take"

TELEVISION

Best News Program–TV Patrol Central Visayas - ABS-CBN TV 3 Cebu. *Best Comedy Program*–Quizon Avenue - ABS-CBN 2. *Best Sports Show*–Sports Unlimited - ABS-CBN 2. *Best Entertainment Program*–Extra Challenge - GMA 7. *Best Talk Show*–Mel & Joey - GMA 7. *Best Business News or Feature*–ANC Money - ANC 21. *Best Adult Educational/Cultural Program*–Good Take - IBC 13. *Best Children's Program*–Lovely Day - GMA 7. *Best Special Event Coverage*–Ryan Cayabyab The Musicman at 50 - ABS-CBN 2. *Best News Magazine*–I-Witness: The GMA Documentaries (Abakada ni Inay) - GMA 7. *Best Drama Series/ Program*–For Life - ABS-CBN TV 3 Cebu.–Wish Ko Lang - GMA 7.

STUDENT CMMA

Best Student Organ-Grade School–The Greenery by La Salle Greenhills. *Best Student Organ High School*–The Clarion by Tanza National Comprehensive School-Cavite. *Best Student Organ*-College–Internos by UST-Faculty of Sacred Theology. *Best Public Service Print Ad*–Feels Like Hell by Colegio de San Juan de Letran. *Best Public Service Radio Ad*–Bounce by Colegio de San Juan de Letran. *Best Public Service TV Ad*–Sana by Colegio de San Juan de Letran. *Best TV Production*–Buhay Pagkatapos ng Unos by Colegio de San Juan de Letran.

SPECIAL CITATIO

Student Short Film–Cadavers in Abuse–Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, *Print Special Feature*–Yena Tam Ngamin - Piat Legacy, *Public Service Print Ad*–The Many Faces of the Teacher (Diwa Learning Systems) Mavcomm/Capri, *Public Service Outdoor Ad*–Miko (Eyebank Foundation) TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno, *Public Service TV Ad*–Pondo ng Pinoy "Better Place" (Caritas Manila) Ace Saatchi & Saatchi, *Branded TV Ad*–Daan Pauwi (Meralco)Publicis-Manila, *Educational Radio Program*–Mom's Morning Chat-SBN Mom's Radio, Southern Broadcasting Network, Website–www.innerbeautysecrets.com-Springs Foundations, *Adult Educational/ Cultural TV Program*–Huling Habilin-Jesuit Comm., *TV Special Event Coverage*–John Paul II, Amen-ABC 5, *Music Video*–Simeon's Canticle - Jesuit Comm. Foundation, *Secular Album*–Reaching Destination-Nerissa Del Carmen-Guevara.

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Consultants tapped to help RP bag favorable trade deal with US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

Agreement to raise garments exports to $4B/yr

THE GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL garments exporters are chipping in to hire American consultants to help boost the country's position in the negotiations for an industry-specific preferential tariffs agreement (PTA) with the United States.

This agreement is seen to jack up the country's garment exports to $4 billion yearly from the current average of $2.8 billion a year.

According to a trade official, the government and the local firms would contribute $125,000 or about P6.75 million each to start the process.

"A bilateral pact like this normally takes 12 to 15 months to wrap up, but usually the main provisions of the agreement would be known within six months from the start of the talks," the official said.

The source said a garments PTA was expected to create 100,000 additional jobs yearly and bring in at least $500 million in additional investments in the the long term.

"The top six garments manufacturers in the country have also committed to expand their operations here if the country clinches a PTA with the US," the official added. "These firms account for a quarter of our yearly garments exports."

The top garments makers include Smart Shirt, Tri-State Manufacturing, Hoffen Industries and Luen Thai.

These firms make apparel for international brands such as Gap, Polo Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne and Anne Taylor.

Further, the government and the industry players have committed to increase the pool of lobby funds to $1 million at a ratio of 70-30 sharing if talks on a PTA would progress.

Last month, officials of the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines said some 200,000 workers or about half of the local garments industry were in danger of losing their jobs in the next three years due to competition from low-cost producers like China.

Congep said the industry needed a more secure access to the United States market which accounts for an average of $1.9 billion a year or about 70 percent of the country's exports earnings from garments.

Due to huge volumes of garments coming from China, the world's largest markets—including the US, Canada and Europe—are continuing to impose quotas on imports from China until it becomes a full-pledged member of the World Trade Organization in 2008.

Telcos' subscriber base down in Q3

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUBSCRIBER COUNT, THE BEDROCK OF mobile telecom companies' profitability, has gone down dramatically in the third quarter and major players are planning to further continue shedding unwanted, non-revenue customers before the end of the year.

On the bright side, there are still 25 million potential wireless subscribers that the players can continue running after.

Globe Telecom Inc. is expected to report a more than 1-million drop in its subscriber base in the third quarter from 13.6 million as of the end of the first half.

Smart Communications Inc. said it added only 800 subscribers in the third quarter. Its customer base remained at 20.8 million as of end-September while Globe's subscriber base went down to 12.4 million.

Globe major shareholder Singapore Telecom yesterday disclosed that Globe's subscriber headcount slipped by 8.9 percent in the third quarter from the previous quarter's level, although it rose 6 percent from 11.7 million a year ago.

Smart president Napoleon Nazareno said that industry-wide, the penetration rate could drop by 1 to 2 percent this year from 2004 level as telcos continued to weed out non-paying prepaid customers. Last year, the penetration rate was at 36 percent.

"The downward trend in the subscriber base is expected to continue up to the end of this year," he said. It is likely that by the end of the year, Smart will report a subscriber base lower than its third quarter level of 20.8 million. Globe's base may also erode further.

The two major phone firms have been purging their customer base of non-earning subscribers since May, when they stopped their SIM-swap promo, which failed to deliver revenue for both firms.

Estimated at about 3 million to 4 million, the SIM swap subscribers are those who move from one network to another almost every month to take advantage of the free P50 load in each phone chip offered by the telcos.

Globe estimated it would save about P300 million per quarter when it stopped the SIM swap.

"The pernicious effect of SIM swap is that you have an illusion of an increase in subscribers but you don't have the real substance. You would think your base is growing significantly but the revenue is not going up," said Globe president Gerardo Ablaza in an earlier interview.

Ablaza said a SIM was active for six months. So the only time the company

TELCOS/ B8

BDO to issue ₱2.9B in debt papers

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO DE ORO Universal Bank is set to issue on Nov. 23 up to P2.9 billion worth of long term negotiable certificates of deposits (LTNCDs).

This follows the bank's P2.1-billion float of the same instruments last June.

BDO told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that it had signed the placement and market maker agreements with Standard Chartered Bank for the issue.

The interest rate was set at 9.73 percent per year fixed for five years, while the size was targeted at P1.5 billion up to P2.9 billion.

"This is the second series of LTNCDs offered by BDO under the authority granted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to issue a total of P5 billion," the bank said in its disclosure.

LTNCDs are negotiable certificates of deposit indicating an amount of indebtedness of a bank with a designated maturity. These represent the bank's obligation to pay the LTNCD's face value upon maturity and the specified coupon or interests quarterly during the life of the certificate of deposit.

BDO is issuing LTNCDs to diversify the maturity profile of its deposits. These instruments cater to individuals and corporations in search of a superior investment alternative.

As a deposit hybrid, the LTNCDs are competitively priced, carrying a premium over the 3-month Treasury bill benchmark rate or MART1. LTNCDs are negotiable, which means they can be liquidated anytime at the current market price. They also carry an insurance cover from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. They may be purchased for a minimum of P100,000.

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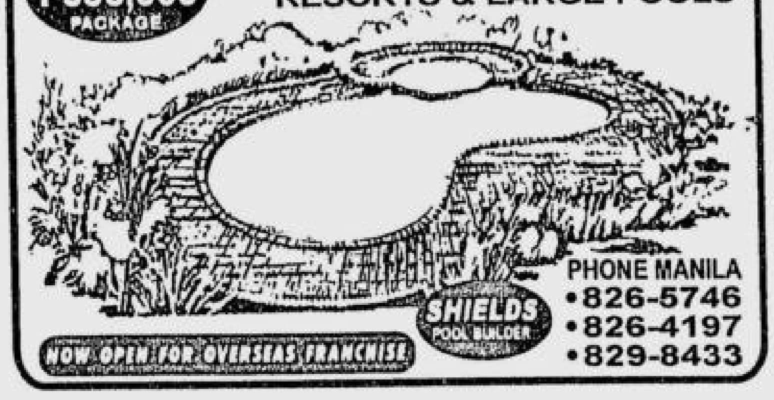

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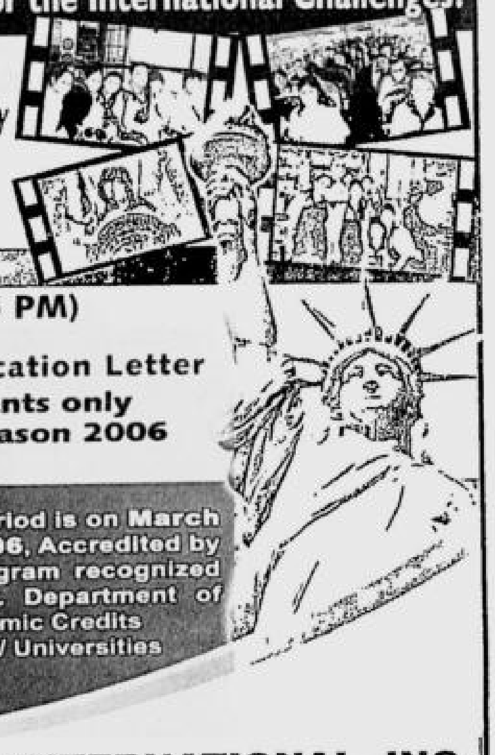

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Finance proposes income tax rates reduction

By Michelle V. Remo

Cushioning impact of oil price hikes, VAT on wage earners

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE is pushing for the reduction of income tax rates slapped on salaried individuals and an increase in their allowable deductions.

"We (DOF) are not blind to everyday economic realities," Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said. He added the DOF was studying the possibility of including in the proposed cuts the tax rates on middle-income tax payers.

The department said the government could now afford to implement the tax rate cut given the expected proceeds from the imposition of the expanded value added-tax.

Bonoan said the DOF was already discussing with the House committee on ways and means the crafting of a bill on this.

Bonoan said details of the plan was still being worked out, but added that the DOF was looking at adjusting the income brackets under the Tax Code to "a more taxpayer-friendly manner" and then lowering the tax rates imposed on each bracket.

The Tax Code imposes the lowest income tax rate of 5 percent on employed individuals earning P10,000 or less a year, while the highest income tax rate is slapped on those earning more than P500,000 a year. The highest income tax rate is P125,000 plus 32 percent on the amount in excess of P500,000.

This was an improvement of an earlier proposal to provide tax credits to minimum wage earners, who may use the tax credits to settle their taxes.

The plan to implement the tax cuts followed the implementation last Nov. 1 of the VAT Reform Law, which expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and will raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent starting January 2006. Critics said the law was untimely in view of the rising oil prices.

The DOF is expecting to collect P81.4 billion in additional revenue yearly from the VAT law.

Bonoan said the DOF would also push for the passage of the Simplified Net Income Tax Sytem (SNITS) bill which, together with the new VAT law, would more than compensate for the potential revenue losses arising from the planned income tax rates reduction. The government estimated that the SNITS would help generate P15 billion in additional annual tax collection.

The DOF expects to encourage self-employed individuals and professionals to pay their taxes accurately with a friendlier tax-payment procedure. The SNITS allows a taxpayer to simply deduct 40 percent from his or her gross income, making the remaining 60 percent taxable. Under the current system, self-employed and professionals have to list down their allowable deductions and provide proofs in paying income tax.

MINIMUM wage earners, even middle-income taxpayers, seen to benefit from the agency's move. PDI PHOTO

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Current account surplus seen rising to $2.2B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY IS EXPECTED TO POST A current account surplus of $2.2 billion in 2006, or 37 percent better than the $1.6 billion projected for this year, as strong foreign exchange inflows from overseas Filipino workers is seen to cover for weak export earnings.

Based on the latest projections of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the CA surplus next year would account for about 2 percent of the country's gross domestic product, as against 1.7 percent of GDP expected for this year.

The current account, a key component of the balance of payments, records trade of goods and services, as well as cash transfers, including those from migrant workers.

The stronger CA surplus despite the projected widening of the trade deficit next year would be made possible by the expected rise in OFW remittances to $11.3 percent from $10.3 billion this year.

The projected OFW inflows are enough to offset the trade deficits of $8.3 billion this year and $9.7 billion next year.

The government has scaled down its export growth targets to 6 percent this year and to 8 percent next year on weakening global demand for electronics and rising production costs. The inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee originally set an export growth target of 10 percent for this year and 2006.

The import growth projection was likewise scaled down to 9 percent for this year and next year from the previous forecasts of 13 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

The bearish outlook for exports factored in the sluggish demand for electronics, which accounted for 60 percent of the country's total export receipts so far this year.

In revising the trade outlook, the government also took into account the risks to export growth arising from higher production costs in turn caused by skyrocketing oil prices and interest rates as well as possible clamor for upward wage adjustments.

In the meantime, the country's import spending was seen to grow by 9 percent this year and next year also because of higher oil prices, as well as higher purchases of capital goods and raw materials to support exports and the recovery of the manufacturing sector.

The country's current account surplus rose sharply in the first half of this year to $1.1 billion or 2.5 percent of GDP.

Kuok launches ₱3.5-B project

THE KUOK GROUP, OWNER/DEVELOPER OF Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts in Asia-Pacific, launches today its P3.5-billion The St. Francis Towers residential condominium in Shangri-La Place, Mandaluyong City.

The project will have two towers rising to 60 floors each, with 1200 residential units (studios, one- and 2-bedroom units, garden duplexes with private pools and penthouse units.) The towers will be equipped with high-speed elevators, service elevators and facilities that include wireless fidelity (Wi-Fi), deluxe/banquet and function room, multi-purpose room, clubhouse with gym and a game room.

The towers will be linked directly to the Edsa Shangri-La, Manila through an air-conditioned elevated walkway. The MRT Shaw station is directly accessible via the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

The project developer is the Kuok Group's The Shang Grand Tower Corp. The Shang Grand Tower in Makati City, the Group's first self-funded high rise condominium in the country is now in its finishing stage.

Telcos'...

From page B7

could totally rid itself of the non-earning customers would be in the last quarter of the year.

"There are still 25 million people out there who are not yet using cellphones. We are addressing this market," said Nazareno.

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July 5, 1921 - November 7, 2005

*Peacefully joined his parents **Atty. Mariano D. Ampil Sr.** (†),*
***Potenciana Valencia vda. de Ampil** (†)*
*and brother, **Atty. Mariano V. Ampil Jr.** (†),*
in the home of our Lord.

His bereaved family: wife **Ercy**; children **Marissa, Ramon and Cheryll, Angel** and **Minsie, Mario** and **Charo, Ruben** and **Marivic, Ariel, Edgar,** and **Dee**; and grandchildren **Jobo, Enzo, Sarah Marie and Ram**; other relatives and friends, request the pious reader to offer prayers for the eternal repose of our beloved "**Totoy.**"

His remains lie in state at the San Lorenzo Chapel, Santa Maria della Strada Church, Katipunan Road, Q.C. Funeral Mass will be on Saturday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the main church. Cremation will follow at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Q.C. after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the love you shared to our beloved

Eng'r. FELIPE "Philip" S. CUYUGAN, SR.

of San Fernando, Pampanga

through the prayers, flowers, Masses and sympathies you offered especially at the time of his departure to a new life.

May the Good Lord return these blessings to you.

– Cuyugan Family –

Our dearly beloved
MAMA

EUFEMIA C. BALIÑA

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On 06 November 2005 at the age of 82.

Her loving husband **Agapito** (†); children **Edilberto & Aida, Arlene & Elmer, Amelita, Edgar & Rosamarie, Agnes Cristina & Antonio, Aida & Ricardo**; grandchildren **Catherine Grace & Jose Antonio, Aldwyn, Elizara & Israel, Allenrey, Miguel Enrico, Elisha May, Christine Josanne, Angela, Mari Anton**; relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc. (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on 12 November 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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Peacefully joined our Creator
on November 03, 2005 at the age of 80.

His bereaved wife **Elisa Mejia-Velasco**; four daughters; in-laws and grandchildren; **Mary Gemma, Fidel** and **Jessica Anne; Mary Heidi, Rolando** and **Kayleen Ann; Mary Indira, Salvatore** and **Gian Paolo; Mary Jane** and **Robert**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in his hometown of Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

Interment will be on November 12, 2005 at the Malasiqui Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the St. Ildephonse Church.

JUAN V. BASOBAS

of Alaminos, Pangasinan
Born on February 14, 1926,
has peacefully returned to his Creator
on November 6, 2005 at the age of 79.

His bereaved wife JOSEFINA "JOSIE" SORIANO-BASOBAS

children DADA, DANNY, DITAS, EL, KATHRYN and PATRICK, grand children, other relatives and friends, request the pious reader to offer prayers for him.

His mortal remains lie in state at chapel 9-B La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be at Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City on November 12, 2005, Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

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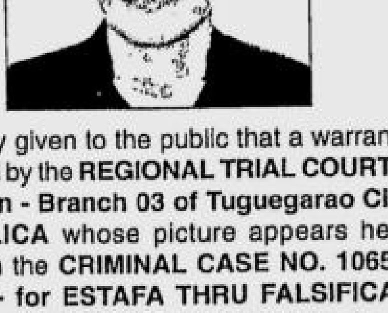

Notice is hereby given to the public that a warrant of arrest has been issued by the **REGIONAL TRIAL COURT - Second Judicial Region - Branch 03 of Tuguegarao City** against **JAIME F. NALICA** whose picture appears herewith, in connection with the **CRIMINAL CASE NO. 10657, 26210, 26211, 26212 - for ESTAFA THRU FALSIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DOCUMENT**. Any information leading to the lawful arrest of **MR. JAIME NALICA** please contact: **S & F Finance Corporation. Tel. No. (075) 515-4460, 522-1776 or 523-5007.**

(PDI - Nov 9, 2005)

BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol
Fax No. (038) 508-8095,
Tel. No. (038) 508-0084, 508-0085

INVITATION FOR BIDS NO. 2005-06

The **BOHOL I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BOHECO-I)** thru 5% reinvestment and general fund intends to procure distribution transformers for additional loads in our coverage area.

Sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the above-mentioned materials will be received by **BOHECO-I** at its main office in Maca-as, Tubigon, Bohol on or before November 21, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. at which time and place said proposal would be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their representative who choose to attend.

The interested bidders may obtain information, secure list of bidding documents from **BOHECO-I** Main Office upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand and Two Hundred Pesos (Php 1,200.00).

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. ITABLE**
General Manager

(PDI - Nov 9, 2005)

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
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Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Rocky M. Turingan** starting **November 09, 2005**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 17, 2005, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement Department at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Procurement Office Wall Clock Time) of December 01, 2005**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

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Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

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☎ 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
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☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
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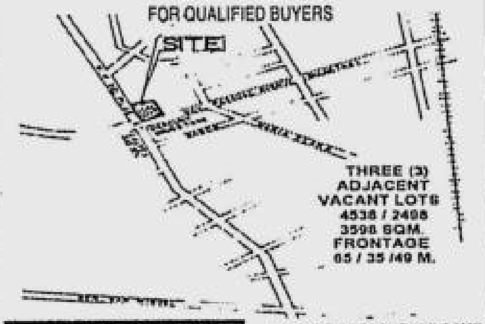

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

LOOKING FOR AGENCIES TO SUPPLY MANPOWER FOR FEMALE FOOT&BODY MASSEUR T#3093627 (0920)4520169 CORRY

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Teodora C. Rusha has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. # 111, Page # 23, Book #488, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Lucila M. Lawas-Yutok of Pasig City (PDI-Oct. 26, Nov. 2 & 9, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificate No. A-0654 issued by SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF CLUB INC for 1 share to DANILO CHICO has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued. (PDI-Nov. 9, 16 & 23, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: ww.lto.gov.ph

INVITATION TO BID

The Land Transportation Office invites all motor vehicle owners to apply for eligibility to participate in an On-site Auction of thirty one (31) pieces Limited Edition - Vanity License Plates (VLP), with a floor price of Php 50,000.00 per plate with the following salient features:

I. **Plates available for Auction:**

ORDER OF SALE -ON-SITE BIDDING

31 VLP LIMITED EDITION

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Lot 1	Lot 2	Lot 3	Lot 4	Lot 5
UUUUUU	6666	PPPPP	HHHHHH	ZZZZ
Lot 6	Lot 7	Lot 8	Lot 9	Lot 10
666666	BBBB	TTTTTT	NNNN	4444
Lot 11	Lot 12	Lot 13	Lot 14	Lot 15
DDDDD	UUUUU	IIIIII	444444	DDDDDD
Lot 16	Lot 17	Lot 18	Lot 19	Lot 20
WWWW	CCCC	LLLLLL	PPPPPP	55555
Lot 21	Lot 22	Lot 23	Lot 24	Lot 25
RRRR	FFFFFF	NNNNN	PPPP	DDDD
Lot 26	Lot 27	Lot 28	Lot 29	Lot 30
YYYYYY				
Lot 31				

II. **Auction Details:**
Date : November 18, 2005
Time : 4:00 p.m.
Venue : Bulwagang Edu, 2/F LTO Bldg., East Ave., Diliman, Q.C.

III. **Documentary Requirements:**
1. Duly accomplished Application Form
2. Official Receipt issued by LTO Central Office or Deposit slip from Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)

Bidding procedures and requirements are available at the Budget Section, LTO Central Office. For further information, you may contact Ms. Suzie Santidad-Cruz (02) 929-2779 / Ms. Jeah Delfin (02) 921-9068 or visit our website www.lto.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Asst. Secretary

(PDI - Nov. 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation & Communications
LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING & REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) invites all qualified agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the procurement of security services, consisting of:

1. Numbers Needed 14 Security Guards for Metro Manila
   23 Security Guards for Regional Posting
2. Scope of Work
   a. Areas to be serviced: all buildings, structures, project sites, exhibit site, motor vehicles within the LTFRB compound and its perimeter;
   b. Protect life of LTFRB officials and employees, and other properties in the LTFRB Offices and premises;
   c. To provide One (1) Unit (24-hours, 7 days per week) Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and sixteen (16) Monitoring Camera System in strategic areas for all LTFRB Offices and Installations. Tapes shall be preserved and stored for 1 month before reuse;
   d. Up-to-date security paraphernalia such as metal wand-detectors (One (1) unit/region and two (2) units at Central Office) bomb/drug-sniffing K9 (optional as needed); adequate crowd control materials (as needed), F/As for all SGs, etc.
3. Other requirements will be provided in the Bid Documents.
4. Approved Budget of the Contract (ABC) is Php 7.0 million.
5. The duration of the Contract is 12 months (01 January to 31 December 2006)

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar type of service within the last 2 years, must be financially capable to bid, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or purchased) available for the implementation of the said service. The lists of minimum equipment required are indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check / Screening, as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use a non-discretionary "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Post-qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR), and as further stipulated in the Bid's Terms of Reference.

Schedule of activities as follows:

Activities	Date	Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	14-21 November 2005	2:00 PM	LTFRB (BAC Secretariat)
2. Pre-Bid Conference	24 November 2005	2:00 PM	LTFRB Conference Hall
3. Last Day-Submission of Bids	06 November 2005	2:00 PM	LTFRB (BAC Secretariat)
4. Opening of Bids and Eligibility	07 December 2005	2:00 PM	LTFRB Conference Hall

Bid documents can be obtained from the BAC Secretariat by the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 20,000.00.

For further inquiries, please contact the LTFRB BAC Secretariat at Telephone Nos. 426-2501 & 426-2485.

LTFRB reserves the right to reject all bids, to waive any formalities or defects found, or to accept such bids to award to any agency whose bid is most advantageous to the LTFRB, in particular, or to the government in general.

(Sgd.) EXEC. DIR. RONALDO M. SALUNGA
LTFRB BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – November 9, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Provincial General Services Office
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City
Tel/Fax # (035) 2252433

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all licensed security agencies to pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the following requirement, viz:

1. CY 2006 SECURITY SERVICES REQUIREMENT involving Twenty-Nine (29) guards to be assigned to the different provincial offices and facilities.

The list of pre-qualification requirements may be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (Provincial General Services Office)

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before December 8, 2005 also not later than 10:00 o'clock in the morning by the Committee on Awards at Provincial General Services Office at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened. A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled on November 22, 2005 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning at the same venue.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Provincial General Services Officer
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 9 & 16, 2005)

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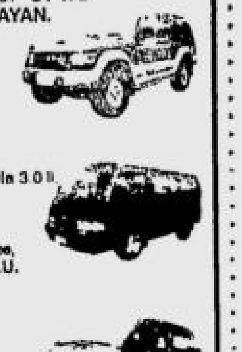

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1150 Pres. Quirino Ave. Extn., Paco, Manila, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 563-8338 to 42
c/o Ms. Maui Doctor

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Security Services

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) intends to apply the sum of Seventeen Million Five Hundred Thirty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Pesos (P17,534,880.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The DAR, now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for 81 Security Guards including 1 Detachment Commander and 3 Shift-in-Charge/Supervisors. The Contract for Security Services shall be for a period of one (1) year (January to December 2006). The Description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Instructions to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorship or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Agrarian Reforms Bids and Awards Committee (DAR-BAC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. starting November 9 to November 16, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P7,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The DAR-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 21, 2005 10:00 a.m. at HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 28, 2005 10:00 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in either of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC)
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check or Bank Draft	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on November 28, 2005 10:00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the opening of Bids.

The DAR-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Department of Agrarian Reform
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 9261891; 9287031; local 511 or 520
Telefax: 9269866

(Sgd.) ATTY. NESTOR R. ACOSTA, CESO II
Undersecretary, PPLAO
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 9 & 15, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Janitorial Services

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to apply the sum of Eleven Million Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P11,300,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Janitorial Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The DAR now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for Janitorial Manpower of three (3) Supervisors and seventy-eight (78) Janitors. The Contract for Janitorial Services shall be for a good period of one (1) year (January to December 2006). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in the Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorship or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Agrarian Reforms Bids and Awards Committee (DAR-BAC) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. starting November 9 to November 16, 2005.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be in the form of cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The DAR-BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on November 21, 2005 10:00 a.m. at HRD Training Center, DAR Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before November 28, 2005, 10:00 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in either of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC)
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check or Bank Draft	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
GSIS Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on November 28, 2005, 10:00 A.M. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representatives who choose to attend the opening of Bids.

The DAR-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Department of Agrarian Reform
Bids and Awards Committee Secretarial
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No.: 9261891; 9287031 local 511 or 520
Telefax: 9269866

(Sgd.) NESTOR R. ACOSTA, CESO II
Undersecretary, PPLAO
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 9 & 15, 2005)

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SECOND OFFICER
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

THIRD OFFICER
(Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 5,719 per month)

1ST ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 4,000 per month)

2ND ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

3RD ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary - US$ 2,335 per month)

ELECTRICIAN
(Salary - US$ 2,728 per month)

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Republic of the Philippines
TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps
(Reference No.: PB2050629-LE0059)

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of *Php 2,500,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *PR No. NOD-05-0010890, Supply and Delivery of Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of Ultrahigh Pressure Extinguishing Fire Pumps.* Delivery of the GOODS is required as listed below. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A., 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from *November 09, 2005 to November 28, 2005* from *9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.* and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 1,000.00. The method of payment will be *Cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 16, 2005 / 2:00 PM* at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *November 29, 2005 / 10:00 AM.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or Php 25,000.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%) or P37,500.00
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2-1/2% or Php 62,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P2,500,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on *November 29, 2005/10:00 AM* at the *Admin Conference Room same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.*
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City.
Tel. No. (632) 9812205 / (632) 9812241
Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – November 9 & 15, 2005)

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PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN SA PAGKAIN
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF BIDDING

In consonance with Republic Act 9184, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a bidding on **December 08, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila, to all interested rice suppliers for the supply of **350,000 MT, 5% MOLSO** long grain white rice, 25% brokens, Well-Milled, in fifty (50) kilograms net each in polypropylene bags suitable for rice export with NFA markings to be loaded in bulk carrier/s with an appropriated budget from corporate resources of Php 6.0 B. Containerized shipment is not allowed. Source countries shall be Thailand, Vietnam, China, Pakistan, Australia and/or U.S.A. A maximum of 50,000 MT each shall be awarded in case of Pakistan, Australia, and/or USA origin.

All interested suppliers are required to submit quotations for all specifications on CFR FO basis. Documents Against Acceptance (D/A) with a tenor of ninety (90) days from receipt by NFA of the complete set of original documents for payment and on the basis of mandatory countertrade and countertrade performed on best effort. Otherwise, bids shall be considered non-responsive.

Arrival period shall be as follows:

AT LEAST 25% — JANUARY 2006
AT LEAST 50% — FEBRUARY 2006
BALANCE — MARCH 2006

Government suppliers and private suppliers who have delivered to the NFA within the last three (3) years (2003/2004/2005) and do not have a bad track record may be awarded the following maximum volume:

SUPPLIER	VOLUME (MT)
Government (with good track record)	250,000
Private (with good track record)	50,000
Government (without track record)	50,000
Private (without track record	25,000

However, suppliers and/or source companies with pending import-related accounts/liability prior 2003 are considered to have bad track record and are not allowed to participate in the bid.

Minimum volume to be offered per supplier shall be 10,000 MT per specification. Vessels to be utilized should have a maximum load capacity of 15,000 MT.

All bidders are required to post a bid bond equivalent to 3% of the highest value of offered quantity in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable and-by L/C issued by foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

Winning bidders are required to post a performance bond equivalent to 10% of the value of the awarded quantity within three (3) banking days after receipt of the notice of award in the form of cashier's/manager's check issued by a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an irrevocable stand-by Letter of Credit issued by a reputable commercial bank or in the case of an irrevocable stand-by L/C issued by a foreign bank, the same shall be confirmed by a reputable local bank.

List of Eligibility Requirements and instructions to bidders may be secured starting **November 09, 2005** thru MR. TOMAS R. ESCAREZ, Assistant Department Manager and MR. NESTOR U. PUANGCO, Division Chief III, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City with telephone numbers 712-1564; 742-4140; 743-8696; 711-7433; 740-1977; 712-1708; and 712-1572.

The terms of reference and offer sheets will likewise be available from **November 09 to December 07, 2005** (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P7,500.00.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **November 24, 2005** at **10:00 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila.

Submission of bids will be on **December 08, 2005 between 8:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.** at the FOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER (FDC) Auditorium, FTI Complex, Taguig, Metro Manila. Opening of bids will start exactly at **10:00 a.m.**

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept in the bid/s which is deemed most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Deputy Administrator and
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – November 9 & 16, 2005)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
PNPC COMPLEX, MERRITT ROAD,
FORT BONIFACIO, TAGUIG CITY
Tel. No. 893-1320 loc 5279

INVITATION FOR BID

1. PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) has received an ODA loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as JBIC), in the amount of 14,460,000,000.00 Yen towards the cost of the No. Negros Geothermal Power Projects and intends to apply the proceeds of this loan to payments under the contract for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY** of:

   Various Sizes of Motorized Gate Valves – FGJ 51064

   Disbursement of an ODA Loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than PNOC-EDC shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, PNOC-EDC will take appropriate measures for finance.
2. JBIC requires that bidders and contractors, as well as PNOC-EDC, under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;
   a) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;
   b) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a period determined by JBIC, to be awarded a contract funded by JBIC ODA Loans if it at any times determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practice in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded with JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
3. PNOC-EDC now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders from eligible source countries for the supply of the Goods for the purpose of the Project.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of Purchasing Division c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** PNOC-Energy Development Corporation, PNPC Complex, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1201 Makati City, Tel. No. (632) 893-1320 Loc. 5279, Fax No. (632) 840-1834.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be secured by any interested eligible bidder starting **November 9, 2005**, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Four Hundred Pesos (PHP400.00) Philippine Currency.**
6. For purposes of clarifying matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **November 17, 2005 at 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.
7. The estimated date of award is on **April 1, 2006**.
8. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount indicated in the tender documents, and in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC. Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of December 1, 2005**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**
9. PNOC-EDC will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
10. PNOC-EDC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **Francis M. Dolor**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--Nov. 9, 2005)

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Acer Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 2.93 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	15"	₱ 32,025	₱ 1,334
IBM Pentium 4	Intel Pentium 4 3.06 GHz	80 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	15"	₱ 34,594	₱ 1,441
Laptop							
Acer Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD RW / DVD R	15"	₱ 44,725	₱ 1,864
IBM Celeron Laptop	Intel Celeron 1.5 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	14"	₱ 48,060	₱ 2,003
Acer Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.6 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD RW / DVD R	15"	₱ 53,995	₱ 2,250
IBM Centrino Laptop	Intel Centrino 1.7 GHz	40 GB	256 MB	CD ROM	14"	₱ 57,820	₱ 2,409

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** Retail price of Windows XP Home is P5,175 VAT inclusive.*

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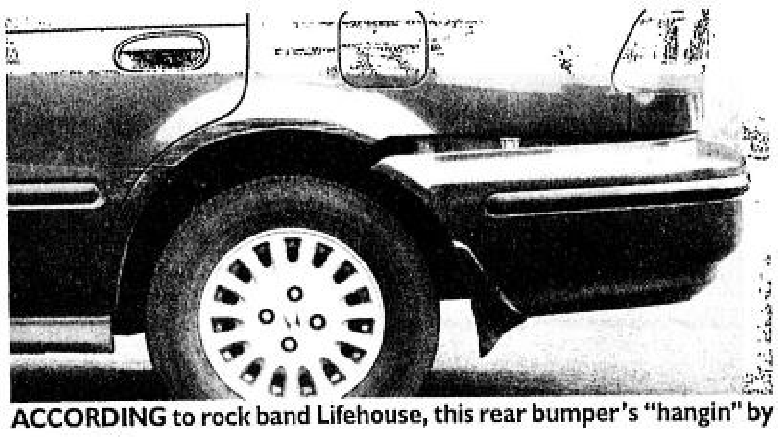
itor Cesar D. Mangawang

From 'lola' to 'hot momma'

Text by Tessa R. Salazar
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

HEY, IS THAT YOUR grandma's grocery car?" asked fellow motor scribe Dino Directo, upon seeing my secondhand, factory-edition 1997 model Honda Civic Lxi for the first time sometime early last year.

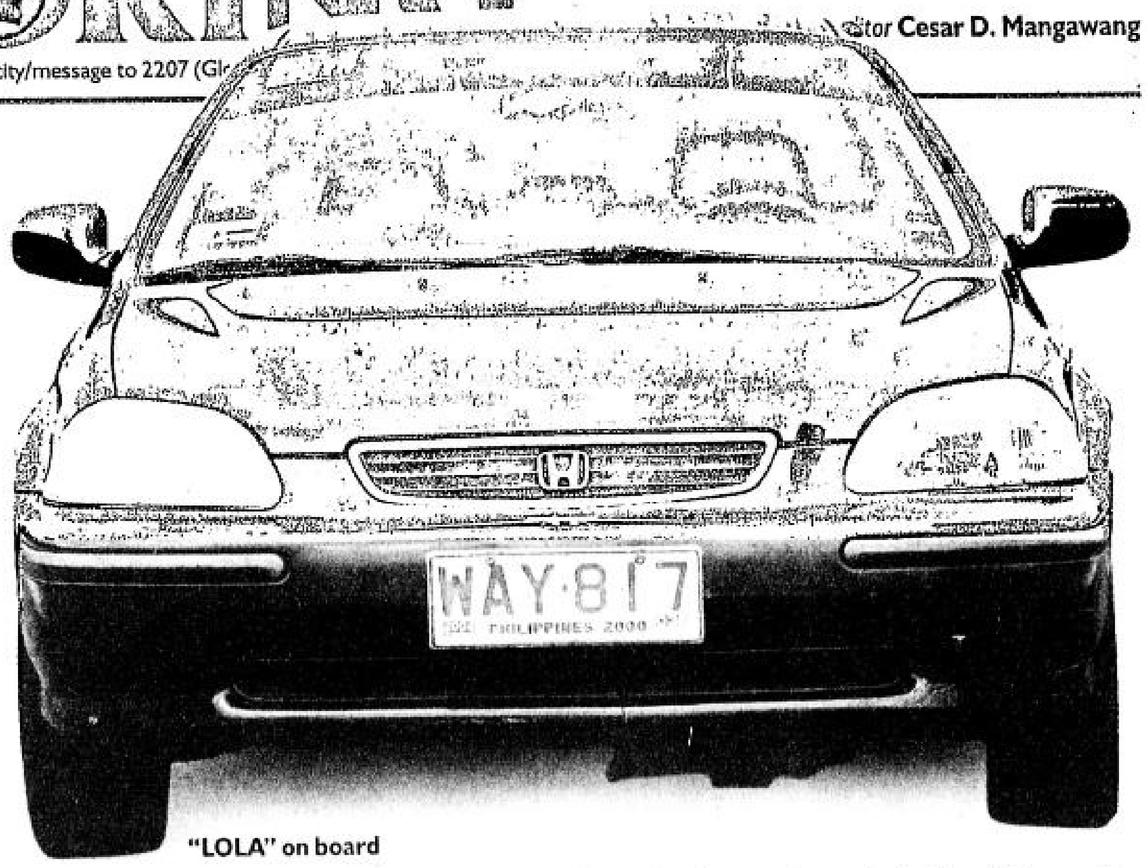
"Your car tint already looks like a *talong* (eggplant)," my next-door neighbor Vincent de Guzman, a car enthusiast, said in half jest.



ACCORDING to rock band Lifehouse, this rear bumper's "hangin" by a moment.

"Is that your car, lola Tessa?" inquired another motoring writer. "It looks...good," and then betraying the insincerity of his remark, he lets out a big yawn.

I was proud of acquiring this Civic in 2003. Despite its age and secondhand status, I got it virtually scratch-free and relatively healthy (only 40,000 km logged in the odometer).



"LOLA" on board

My first decent car

It was my first decent car, and the brand assured me that no taxi of the same make and model would pull up beside me. The car also was, and still is an efficient fuel. miser—dishing out a long bang for my buck (about 16 km per liter, as of my latest personal fuel econo-run).

But now, two years and 20,000 km later, my Civic looked weathered and worn. My late dog Piggy (heaven bless her naughty soul) literally made her mark on that car, notching some nasty scratches on the sides and on the hood, possibly writing the equivalent of "Piggy was here" for all other dogs to see and be envious of.

The car also bore a graphic testimonial of my struggles in the organized chaos of Metro Manila's streets. My rear bumper has already been kissed by a handsome BMW 3 during a particularly heavy jam along Ayala Avenue. The equally handsome driver, a young corporate executive I assumed, was talking on his cell at the time of the incident. But he got off easy, with no cash changing hands and no police reports being filed, probably because the damage to his Bimmer was bigger than mine (his had a dent, mine had no visible marks) or, he was just handsome, or both.

Too bad I didn't get his business card.

It was a day after the accident that I realized that my rear bumper had "sagged" a bit. The collision must have loosened some screws and joints. And so, for some time, I was driving with a hanging

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Loan Amount	P476,850.00
Loan Term	72 months
Interest Rate (APS**)	48.31%
Monthly Payment	P9,823.00

*The price of the Honda City is as of October 2005 and may change without prior notice.
**Advance Payment Scheme, where the first monthly payment is paid upon booking of the loan.

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Scooters' big brother is here

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

THIS SCOOTER IS HUGE. At 2.28 meters in length, 0.82 meter in width, 1.42 meters in height, and huge 120/70-15 (front) and 150/70-14 (rear) tires, the Kymco Xciting 500 is sure to make its presence felt in any city street or highway it's cruising on.

TIPPING AT 230 KG and measuring 820 mm in breadth, the Xciting is big by any standards.

The Xciting is the Taiwanese motorbike maker's bet in the relatively new maxi scooter market.

Powered by a monstrous 500 cc, double overhead cam, liquid-cooled engine, the Xciting could do the sprint to 100 kph in just around six seconds.

Says Gilbert Limjoco, vice president for operations of SC Kymco Philippines, which markets the scooters here: "Bulky as it may seem, the Xciting is certainly no laggard on the road. With a continuously variable transmission that provides stepless acceleration from stand still all the way up to cruising speed, this scooter is an ideal leisure tool—especially on weekends and holidays—for getting away from it all."

Very few

Limjoco reveals the Philippines is one of the very few markets in the region where the Xciting will be sold since the P380,000 scooter will be mainly marketed in Europe where it is expected to make a big splash in that scooter-loving continent.

It is for this reason the Xciting, although manufactured in Taiwan, shows Italian design influences.

FOR A SCOOTER, the Xciting runs on two relatively large wheels—a 15-inch rim in front wearing 120/70 tire and a 14-inch with a 150/70 rubber at the back.

ALTHOUGH A LIMITED number of Xciting scooters will be sold here, Limjoco expects the scooter to bring excitement in the market.

"One will truly appreciate the outstanding integration of plastic, metal and chrome materials into the Xciting's overall design," notes Limjoco.

Handbrake

Perhaps what makes this scooter unique is what is located below its fuel cap: a T-shaped handle, which is actually a handbrake to hold the 230 kg Xciting steady on steep inclines as well as while it's parked.

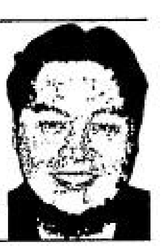
The scooter also scores big in storage as it offers a nonlocking compartment in the nose of the saddle, a lockable one big enough for sunglasses or an iPod player in the leg shield, and a main compartment big enough for a helmet (which also contains an adjustable clip for holding a cell phone and a 12-volt charging socket) under the seat.

"Since the Xciting behaves like a touring motorbike, the designers provided the scooter with a well-padded driver's seat (with adjustable backrest) for comfortable ride as well as aerodynamic windscreen for added protection against the element," reveals Limjoco who adds that the flagship for the Kymco brand is sure to set new standard in scooter design and performance.

Honda Civic at Tochigi proving ground

(Last of three parts)

MY DRIFT



Andre Palma

ULTIMATELY AND SADLY, QUITE a lot of a vehicle's commercial success, both in the Philippines and in the world market, is largely dependent on esthetic beauty. Again, this is something that is dependent on the preferences of the beholder: one man's idea of automotive art could be someone else's example of an industrial design nightmare. "Some say toe-may-toe, some say toh-mah-toe," as the adage goes but only the most cynical and snobbish would not be moved by this car's design.

The 2006 Honda Civic is born of a thrust toward emotional design. Envisioned to elicit a reaction, hopefully more positive than negative, this car's shape and form seek to convey a sensuous quality that excites both the mind and soul. A sense of movement is key to the body of the Civic, as a single motion profile sweeps from the car's front fascia all the way to the rear aerodynamic diffuser. The result is a sporting mono form that combines flowing upper body lines with a forceful, solid lower body.

BEAUTY and the beast: the 8th generation and the author, respectively

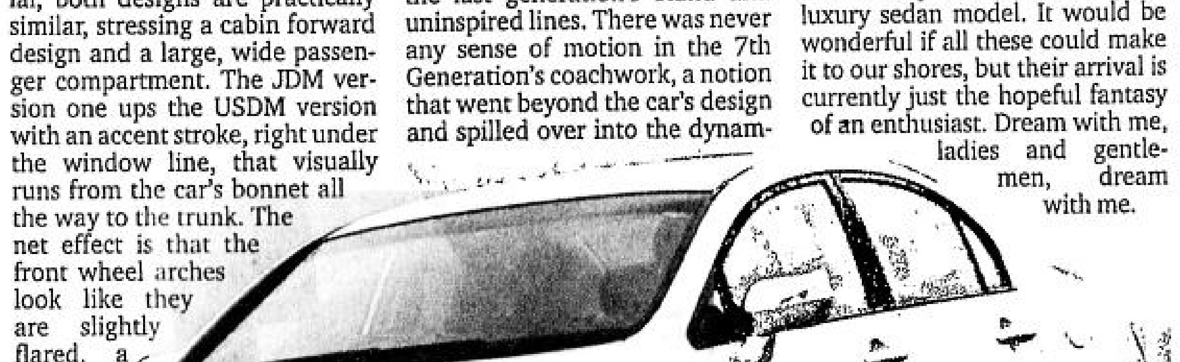
2 official front fascias

There are two official front fascias for the four-door sedan, one destined for the USDM (United States domestic market) and one that is to remain in Japan and Asia. The United States will get a more conservative front mug, with less striking features coupled with a more flat and vertical orientation of the front grille and headlamps. This version is also easily recognized because of the single, continuous nacelle at the bottom of the front bumper. Think of the USDM front fascia as something of a small Accord-like statement.

More dramatic and desirable is the JDM (Japanese domestic market) front-end, something that will probably torment and hound the large American aftermarket for the duration of this model's production run. The JDM version sports a more aggressive expression, aided in no small part by larger, arching driving lamps and a subtly slanted, chevron-like front orientation.

A larger grille is tastefully matched to three slotted intake channels that are found right above the car's front aerodynamic lip spoiler. The overall flavor of this design is undeniably closer to the look of current Integra/RSX, not a bad thing at all. Sources point to this visually hotter version as the model that is supposed to make it to our shores.

From the A-pillar to the C-pillar, both designs are practically similar, stressing a cabin forward design and a large, wide passenger compartment. The JDM version one ups the USDM version with an accent stroke, right under the window line, that visually runs from the car's bonnet all the way to the trunk. The net effect is that the front wheel arches look like they are slightly flared, a design note that imparts just a little more muscular character in the already taut design.



LOVELY in motion is the 2006 Civic at Tochigi's winding track.

Both rear-ends are dominated by two distinct design cues: large, oversized tail lamp clusters and conspicuous built-in deck spoilers. The Americans also get a more subdued and conventional tail lamp treatment, with a very European flair to the execution. Japan releases get obviously larger, red and white brake lamps that feature four large roundels that are difficult to mistake as understated.

The design passes muster

Personally, the design passes muster, as it visually departs from the last generation's bland and uninspired lines. There was never any sense of motion in the 7th Generation's coachwork, a notion that went beyond the car's design and spilled over into the dynamics. Though the 8th Generation is a breath of critical air that should return some of the model's previously bulletproof "street cred," we still have to see exactly which version and what trim will make it to our shores.

The 6th Generation, or EK chassis, presents a formidable measurement of success, both locally and globally, that must at least be logically matched by Gen VIII. Surpassing the ability of the 'last great Civic is surely something that this model seeks to achieve—something that is very possible given the initial impressions of the car at Tochigi R&D.

The JDM 1.8GL model that was tested at Tochigi R&D is just a glimpse of a platform that will probably spawn many more models. Already tested at the same time was the 33 km per liter production hybrid version. A hotter more aggressive Type S will probably be in the works as a 2.0-liter, 200bhp engine is unofficially in development along with a 6-speed close ratio manual transmission.

Pundits in the foreign press have also gone to predict not only the usual Type R hot hatch model, but also a searing and scorching Type RR that is rumored to feature Honda's new SH-AWD (Super Handling, All-Wheel Drive) system already found on the Legend luxury sedan model. It would be wonderful if all these could make it to our shores, but their arrival is currently just the hopeful fantasy of an enthusiast. Dream with me, ladies and gentlemen, dream with me.

Innovative I-Swing; NLEX promise

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE PHENOMENAL 39TH Tokyo Motor Show has just ended, recording nearly two-million visitors. That was a huge increase from the 1.42-million visitors recorded in the last staging of the biennial show. In its 2001 edition, the world-famed Motor Show drew 1.27-million visitors.

The increases in crowd attendance were attributed to better vehicle exhibits and to a change in format from a "display-oriented show" during the last 12 years to an "audience-participation show."

May I add, though, that a major factor was the drastic switch by the exhibitors to showcase future vehicles that are environment-friendly, ecology-conscious and individual-oriented.

As I said, I was there for nearly a week in October, thanks to Toyota Motor Philippines headed by the supremely energetic Nobuharu Tabata.

Again, it was a coverage worth remembering, mainly for the many educational aspects it had given me even as this was already my seventh visit to one of the five major motor shows in the world—the other four being the ones in Los Angeles, Frankfurt, Paris and Geneva.

As one saying goes, "It's not the destination but the trip."

Suffice to say that I was among nearly 15,000 journalists present in Tokyo, of which about 6,000 were from overseas. This exceptional growth of media attendance was attributable to the globalization of the automotive industry, not to mention the rapid growth of the Chinese automotive industry which has been triggering the influx of Asian reporters to the show.

I watched with child-like glee at how most of my fellow journalists during the Press Day gawked at new models and concept cars, although I noticed the virtual massing of mankind around the I-Swing, Toyota's version of a futuristic personal mobility vehicle that allows drivers to express their individuality.

In a nutshell, the I-Swing is a single person package that boasts of an individual design with a "wearable" feeling. I'll tell you more about it in my next column.

So, as Ed Picson loves to say, see you around.

* * *

NLEX Notes: As I said, there are many tourist spots that remain unexplored, if not undiscovered, in Central and Northern Luzon. With the NLEX now remodeled to world-class standards, travel to these places has become more of a comfort and convenience than a purse snatcher.

Sadly, though, most Filipinos don't even know these places exist and have yet to truly appreciate them. Why most Filipinos would prefer going to other places abroad rather than enjoying and discovering their own is pathetic.

It's about time we thought of the prohibitive costs of international travel amid rising fuel costs and the abominable peso-dollar exchange rate. Even domestic carriers have increased tariffs because of rising fuel costs, travel insurance and overall costs of amenities—surely, a bane to travel—budget-conscious travelers like me.

However, with the new NLEX, we can have the same fun and thrill—and at a much slashed travel budget at that—with trips to Subic in Olongapo maybe, or in Hundred Islands in Pangasinan, Vigan or Laoag in Ilocandia, Baguio or Banawe in Mt. Province, or even at Clark's Fontana and other delightful spots there that are virginal in beauty and esthetics.

In my hometown alone (Mangatarem, Pangasinan), there's the so-called Manleluag Hot Springs, which has been recently declared a national park; its waters supposed to be medicinal, the spring of my youth has long been the favorite picnic ground of many Pangasinenses and Ilocanos coming from as far as Vigan and Pagudpud.

Thanks to the new NLEX, travel time has been considerably cut down that I can now go there myself at least once in two weeks, not to discount the itch suddenly coaxing me to motor there on a moment's notice any day of the week.

Take a bow, Mr. Ping de Jesus.

* * *

QUOTE ME. Brake, not honk, at a jeepney driver suddenly cutting your path. That would help you keep your temper under check.

From 'lola' to 'hot momma'

From page B2-1

bumper, with the gap in between becoming wider and wider.

And my "lola" of a car kept looking older and older.

As the engine was properly maintained, even enhanced (thorough checkups at Rapide every 5,000 km and Stage 2 headworks by Butch Inducil's ATI Group in Silang, Cavite, and underchassis repairs by Olson Camacho and his Project O shop in Navotas, my Civic's body looked destined for the dustbins of motoring history.

Looking very ordinary

My Civic looked admittedly very ordinary, with run-of-the-mill rims and factory issue stereo (with no CD player at that).

It looked so ordinary that If I took out the plate numbers and brought it to a police lineup, I wouldn't be able to set it apart from the stolen cars and chop-chop vehicles. Maybe Piggy would be able to claim it because her prints were all over it. If I parked it in the mall's car park, I would have to press the alarm button on my keychain just to pinpoint which among the other hundred dark green Civics in the same parking level was mine.

My Civic was so ordinary that when I enter our office's employee garage, the guards would just wave their hands to the next available slot and not assist me as I parallel-parked. They must have figured that with a car body as ordinary as that, it wouldn't hurt if I drove into the wall, or something like that.

Another dent wouldn't matter, anyway.

FROM 'LOLA'/ B2-4

Focus on road accident-prone areas (black spots)

THE SECOND OF THE Road Safety Conference 2005-06 series tomorrow will focus on road accident-prone areas (black spots).

Sponsored by Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. in cooperation with Automobile Association Philippines and the University of the Philippines National Center for Transportation Studies, the conference will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the mezzanine floor of Dusit Hotel in Makati.

Keynote presentation

Following welcome remarks by AAP vice president Juan B. Angeles, the keynote presentation will be delivered by Philippine Star columnist Federico D. Pascual Jr. on "Road Accidents in Metro Manila" and Dr. Ricardo G. Sigua, associate professor, UP College of Engineering/NCTS on "Defining Black Spots."

Engineer Ramon S. Ona, the director of the Metro Manila Development Authority Traffic Engineering Center, will speak on "Black Spots in Metro Manila" and "Black Spots along National Roads." This will be followed with an informative talk on AAP's Road Safety Call Center by AAP director David L. Arcenas.

After group discussions and short group presentations in the afternoon, the conference wraps up with a synthesis and resolution by Dr. Hilario Sean O. Palmiano, assistant professor, UP College of Engineering/NCTS. Engineer Serafin M. Pantaleon, senior vice president of TMPG, will give the closing remarks.

Porsche service clinic

PGA CARS WILL hold the Porsche Service Clinic which offers Porsche owners, a live check-up program that is not only completely free of charge but is specially tailored to each and every Porsche vehicle.

The service clinic will run from Nov. 15 to 20 (Tuesday-Sunday) from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the PGA Cars' Porsche Center Manila.

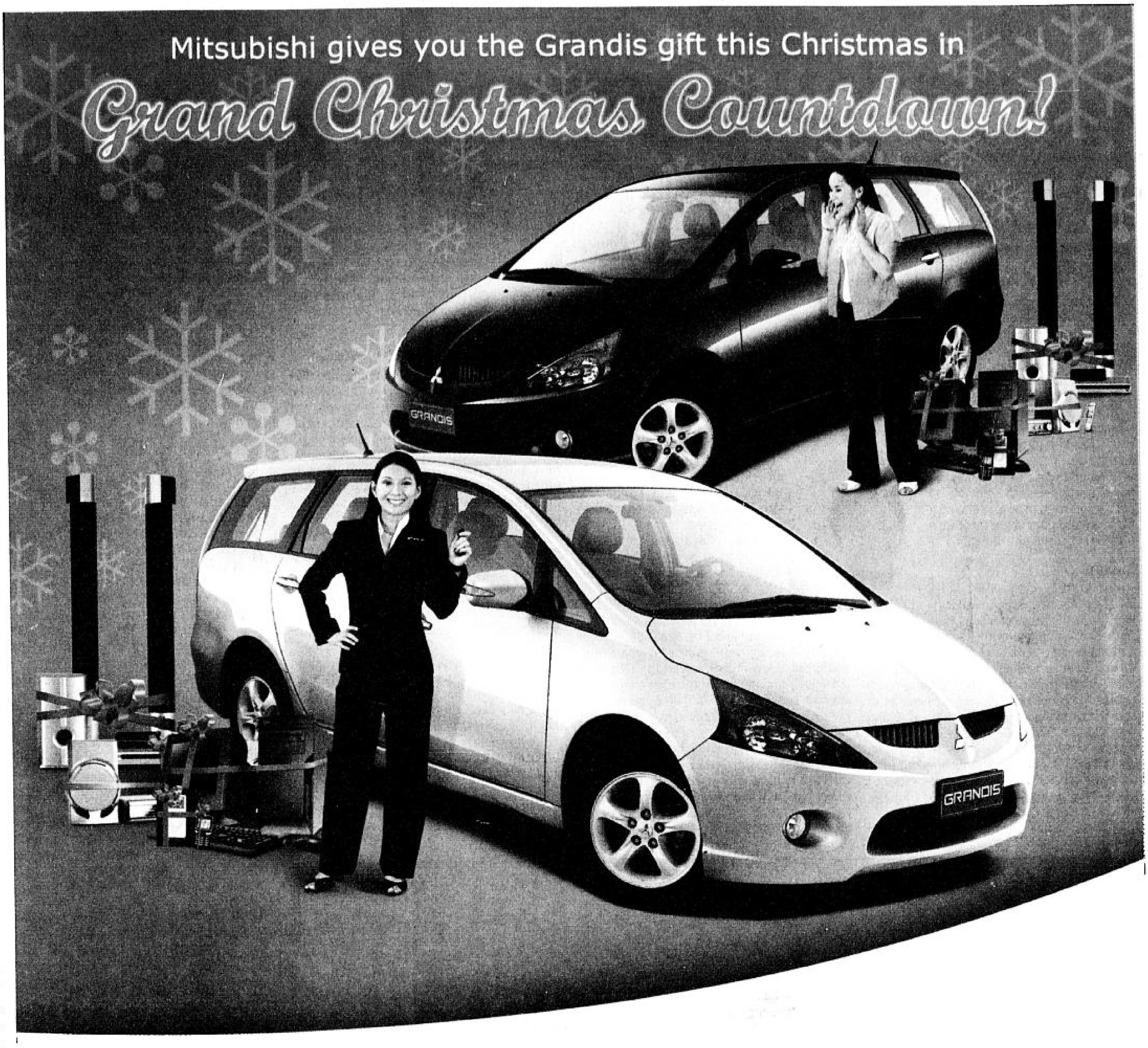
All Porsche Driving Clinic participants will also have the exceptional chance to find out more about the range of service options that are essential to the proper care and maintenance of their Porsche vehicles.

All Porsche owners will have the unique opportunity to have their vehicles checked by Sebastian Zahn, PGA Cars' resident Porsche master technician from Germany.

Special service, Tequipment and Porsche Driver's Selection offers await all participants to the service clinic as well as a chance to win Porsche Driver's Selection items during the daily raffle draw.

PGA Cars is the country's sole authorized importer and distributor of Porsche vehicles and offers the latest Porsche models in the market.

Porsche owners are urged to call Angie Nemeño at 727-0386 or 0920-9701990 for their preferred Porsche Driving Clinic slot.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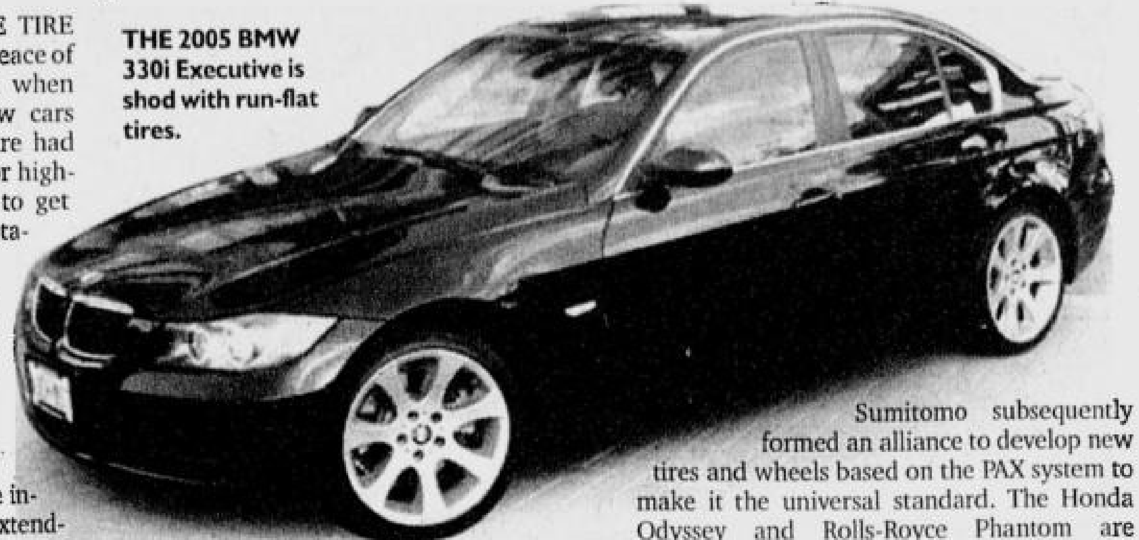


THE 2005 BMW 330i Executive is shod with run-flat tires.

FOR MOTORISTS, HAVING A SPARE TIRE on board is like having insurance and peace of mind. Thus, many were discomfited when they found that in most of the new cars launched on the market, the spare tire had shrunk into a solid rubber doughnut or high-pressure pneumatic just big enough to get them to a vulcanizing shop or service station after a flat.

Given this reaction, will Filipino motorists welcome the day when the spare tire disappears altogether? Like it or not, we must get ready for run-flat tires in our motoring future.

Extended mobility

Unlike regular tires which need to be inflated, run-flat tires (RFTs), also called extended mobility tires, can travel safely as far as 150 km at speeds as high as 80 kph without any air pressure in the event of a puncture, a deep cut or other damage. RFTs eliminate the need for a spare tire and jack which automakers like as it frees up extra space and reduces vehicle weight for a slight gain in fuel efficiency.

RFTs should be welcomed by women as it enables them to reach a safe location to change or repair a tire when necessary. Women as well as male drivers do not relish getting stranded with a flat tire on a dark, deserted road at night, on a highway shoulder any time or on a busy street under pouring rain.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

Slalom

But do RFTs really work? Judging from my first experience with RFTs, I would say they do. Last April, BMW Philippines invited selected motoring journalists to Clark to test-drive the all-new 3 Series which are shod with RFTs. In one segment of the two-day outing, BMW deflated the rear tires and let us take turns driving the cars (four 320i units and one 330i Executive), slalom-style, through a narrow, twisting course bordered by pylons on the tarmac. The Bimmers (which are all rear-wheel-drive) did not swerve our of control or lose road grip, proving that RFTs work fine like BMW's Dynamic Stability Control.

BMW is the first premium car manufacturer in the Philippines to offer RFTs as standard equipment on the BMW 1, 3 and 6 Series and the Z4 and as an option on the 5 and 7 Series, the X3 and X5. In the United States, RFTs are standard on the Chevrolet Corvette and some models of Porsche, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Audi and Ferrari aside from BMW.

Systems

All the major tire manufacturers—Michelin, Goodyear, Bridgestone/ Firestone and Pirelli—are into RFTs. Goodyear pioneered in the development of the RFT for the Corvette, which has extra large tires and no space for a spare. Bridgestone introduced its RFT in 1987 as a specifically designed fitment for the Porsche 959. Bridgestone RFTs are based on a Self-Supporting Run-Flat Tire (SSR) system which employs a strongly stiffened, reinforced sidewall that carries the weight of the vehicle and maintains the tire's shape even after air loss. Since the RFT does not deform, the driver feels no difference in performance and a tire monitoring system must function to alert him/her of air pressure loss.

In 1996, Michelin developed the PAX system whereby a hard rubber ring bonded to the wheel can fully support its share of the car's weight and continue rolling in case the outer tire loses air. Michelin, Goodyear, Pirelli and Sumitomo subsequently formed an alliance to develop new tires and wheels based on the PAX system to make it the universal standard. The Honda Odyssey and Rolls-Royce Phantom are equipped with Michelin RFTs.

Advantage

The advantage of SSR-based RFTs, which BF Goodrich, Dunlop and Kuhmo produce aside from Bridgestone, is that they can be mounted on standard wheels and serviced with conventional tire-changing equipment. The PAX RFT, on the other hand, gives a better ride and handling, has less rolling resistance, runs quieter as the tire can be acoustically tuned and offers more styling options such as the ultra low-profile tire with larger wheel diameter. Since the PAX support system is built into the wheel itself, it is pricey. RFTs cost around P10,000 each here, from $270 to $290 each in the United States.

Aside from the Honda Odyssey, the 2004-05 Toyota Sienna AWD minivan is the first mass market vehicle to have RFTs as standard equipment. Tire manufacturers predict that RFTs will be standard on all production vehicles worldwide within a decade. Goodyear has invested in China to manufacture RFTs by 2007 for the domestic market and for export to the Asia-Pacific region. Which could mean that RFTs are on the way here. Are we ready?

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Do not put a question mark where God put a period.

* * *

(E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph)

Jazz VTEC Media Challenge–Round 2

THE FOUR JAZZ VTEC CARS, powered by Petron Xtra Unleaded gasoline and running on OEM Goodyear tires, were subjected anew to grueling treatment in tire-squealing takeoffs and hard-braking turns for the second round of the Jazz VTEC Media Challenge. What started as a gloomy morning turned out to be a great day for racing participants at the Carmona Racing Circuit on Oct. 29.

Junichi Sato, HCPI's assistant vice president for purchasing, churned out the fastest lap time (1 minute 1.06 seconds) for this year's series so far, beating the best times of the racing media veterans and rookies by more than 2 seconds.

2nd round standing

Aris Ilagan of Manila Bulletin bested his colleagues with his time of 1:03.09, adding 30 championship points to the 27 points he earned in the opening leg—making him the leader in the individual standings.

Action and Fitness Magazine editor in chief Andy Leuterio, and Media Challenge rookie Iñigo Roces from C! Magazine clocked times of 1:03.46 earning both of them 27 championship points in second place. Completing the round's top 5 finishers were Business Mirror's motoring editor Popong Andolong and Philippine Star's Jeff Reyes in fourth and fifth place, respectively.

After a few pointers from racing legend and Media Challenge race director Pocholo Ramirez, the media speedsters traversed the course like pros, with only milliseconds separating the podium finishers.

Overall standing

Manila Bulletin's triumvirate of Anjo Perez, Aris Ilagan and Popong Andolong once again took the top spot with a team time of 3 minutes 11.24 seconds.

Philippine Star's Jeff Reyes, Lester Dizon, Manny de los Reyes and Andy Leuterio placed second with a time of 3:12.17.

Placing third was the team from C! Magazine composed of managing director James Deakin, Angelo Puyat, Chris Van Hoven and Iñigo Roces with a time of 3:12.36.

As of the second round, Manila Bulletin is on top of the overall team standing with 60 championship points. The team from Philippine Star is tied in second place with the boys from C! Magazine with 51 points.

Placing fourth is the team from Top Gear Magazine (42 pts) and in fifth is team Manila Times/dzRH with 33 points. Sixth place is occupied by the men from Auto Review/Autoindustriya with a total of 27 points.

The joint team of INQUIRER/Daily Tribune/dzEC/Daily Mirror is tied in seventh place with the team from Manila Standard Today/dzMM with 15 points. The teams from BusinessWorld/Auto Extreme and ABS-CBN round up this year's participants, with 12 and 6 championship points, respectively.

Sponsors

The Jazz VTEC Media Challenge is presented by Honda Cars Philippines in cooperation with Petron Xtra Unleaded, Goodyear tires, Iger Tech, Nodalo's Trading and Aitech. This is a club event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and is organized by ADBM Resources.

The penultimate round of the Jazz VTEC Media Challenge is slated for Nov. 19 at the Carmona Racing Circuit. For more information about the event, please call 920-6921.

TAKE it away, Parokya: "And I spent oh so many nights staring at my 'tinted talong' (to the tune of "Picha Pie," please)."

From 'lola' . . .

From page B2-2

The 'pimp guys'

It would have been like this for as long as my Civic's body could take it until just a few months ago, a group of Chinese boys with a keen eye for the auto after-sales market took special interest on my Honda.

Sammy Liuson, the Concept One distributor in San Juan, would be in charge of transforming the wheels, rims and all. Victor Llave, known in these parts as "Atoy" and owner of A-Toy body kits on West Avenue, Quezon City, would be in charge of designing and fitting body kit, including the bumper.

Benedict Go, distributor of Xenon Bulbs shop on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, would be in charge of installing the perfect headlight for a dressed-up Civic.

Arvin Lim would be the H&R springs and Bilstein shocks guy. Freddie Bugsy So's task would be his graphics (called Winner). Sony Xplode would be in charge with a kick-ass audio system and Thule Pasong Tamo would be in charge with the visors.

This group, which is better known in the after-market circles as the "Aftermarket Mafia" (not for any violent reasons, but for the authority they wield in this market niche) has for its members young, affluent Chinese entrepreneurs who have made dressing up cars a serious and profitable hobby. Think along the lines of Discovery Channel's "Rides" or "Pimp My Ride" and you'll get a clearer picture of what these boys live for.

And when they saw my slowly disintegrating Civic during a casual meeting, something snapped in their heads, and just like that, they lost interest in me and descended upon my car.

These guys, who have become popular for their award-winning projects in auto shows here and abroad, wanted more than ever to "pimp my ride."

"Why? Why me?" I asked them at first. The group answered jokingly, "Because it's there," repeating the oft-quoted answer from mountaineers about to climb any tough mountain at the risk of losing their lives in the process.

Second collaborative project

Their reasons, of course, were more businesslike than anything else. If they pulled this through, they said, my Honda would be their second collaborative project to see print in a national newspaper.

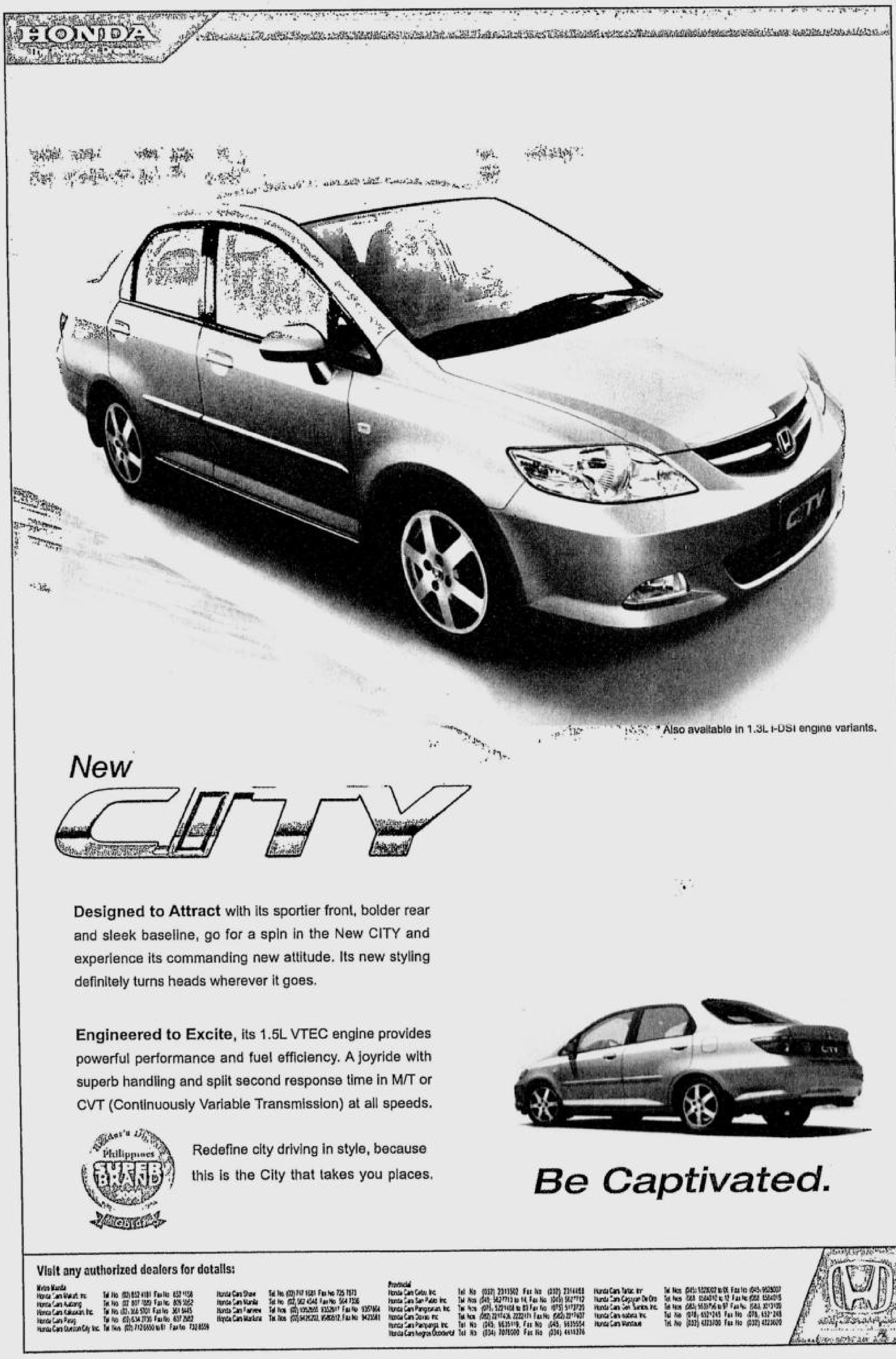
"But I don't have enough to pay you guys," I countered back. The group replied, "Oh, we'll think o some arrangements when we ge there." I made it clear, though, tha this wouldn't be a freebie for me.

"Fine," the group said "Enough with the talking, let's ge to work on your car."

And with that, the "Pimp Guy for the Straight Cars" would star their two-month work on m Civic, and I would have to sa goodbye to Piggy's last marks.

The guys disagreed to accep payments. And it was up to me t come up with a payment solutio that would have everyone com out winners with a clean con science. And come up with a idea I did, which I will reveal nex week.

Next week: My Civic pimped fc a cause



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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005

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WATCH M AMADEUS Christine Bayer and Verns Buckley wearing their Technos

Tim Yap

PHOTO BY MARK NICDAO

EYEWEAR BY TECHNOMARINE

TECHNOMARINE TANDEM. Eyewear endorser Jay-R with Cindy Kurleto

Jupiter returns

ANDY WARHOL SAID HIS generation was bored and hyper. How would we describe ours then?

Instead of sulking in boredom or becoming directionless in my natural hyperhood as a result of the post-Halloween hangover, I wrapped my gifts (for myself and for others) for the coming Christmas season. For once in my life, I think I'll be the first one to give out Christmas gifts this year. Why, I even played all my Yuletide CDs while doing the wrapping.

After I placed all the gifts under my trees (I have two Christmas trees—one for myself, another one for others), I had to take a post-Yuletide break (I'm really on a futuristic mode) by taking a quick drink before running back home to Embassy.

First stop was the birthday party of in-demand director **Robbie Dinglasan** at Luce, Jupiter's star of a "loungey" chill spot known for its crispy *pata* and its brand of hospitality known as **Rem Zamora** and **Boompy Martel**.

More than just another birthday, it was a reason to announce something bigger—the engagement of Robbie to girlfriend **Angela Reyes**.

Yahoo! Here's to another couple that's tying the knot!

(Like when other couples are getting married, inject tinge of bitterness here.)

But, honestly, I'm really happy for them—because they make each other happy. Sob, sob.

Flame food

Wiping away my tears, my nocturnal excursion brought me to the streets of Jupiter, now on a new boom with the all-white-all-right new venue called Fiama Ristorante.

Fiama is Italian for flame. It's a fiery new hot spot with ice-cold interiors. I love the twist.

The new restaurant boasts of red-hot dishes by chef **James Price**, formerly from Sonzi, a Toronto gustatory landmark.

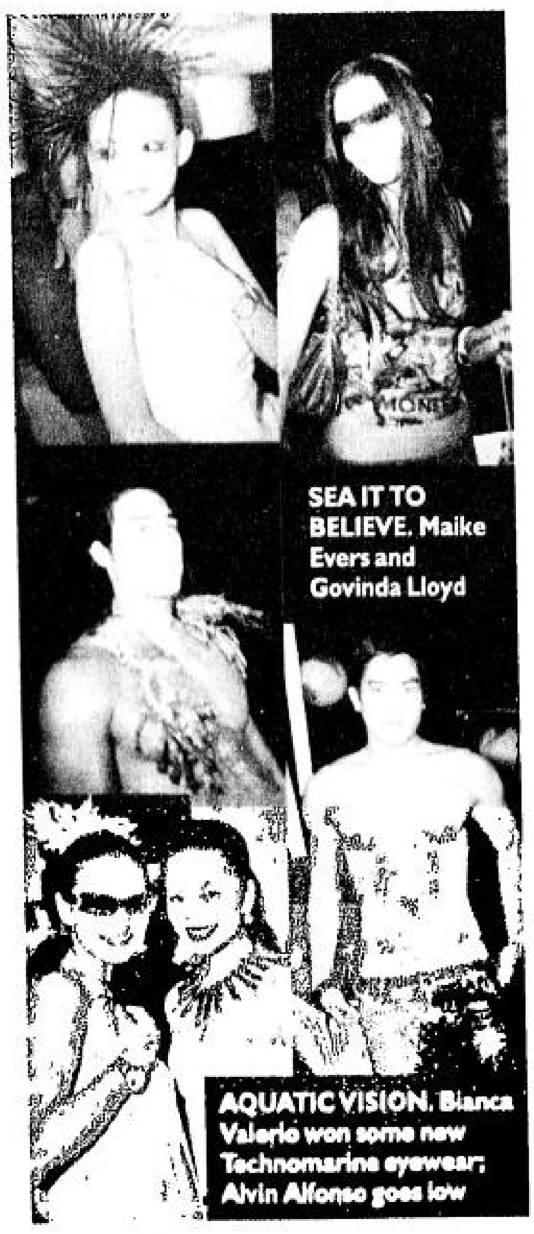
Signature Fiama dishes are Caesar's Salad, its own version of Gambas (which is Crab Fat with Mango Puree), Roast Tomato with Chili with Goat Cheese Truffle, Cappelini in Chili Tomato Sauce with Sweet Olives and Fresh Basil, Beef Tenderloin Stuffed with Shrooms (I love this!) and Gorgonzola over Dijon with Potatoes.

You hungry yet?

Here's more reason to feast. Once you enter the place, familiar faces greet you. Aside from **Carlo Tirona** manning the bar, you spot young owners **Paolo Trillo**, **Albert Besa**, **Vince Santos**, **Joy Quadrante** and **Johann Ramos** in different spots around the resto.

Yup, it's the merging of the powers of Pravda and Ponti, two nifty nightspots that have nurtured this city's thirst for good food and great times. (Visit Fiama at 32 Jupiter St., Bel Air Vil-

JUPITER/ C4



SEA IT TO BELIEVE. Maike Evers and Govinda Lloyd

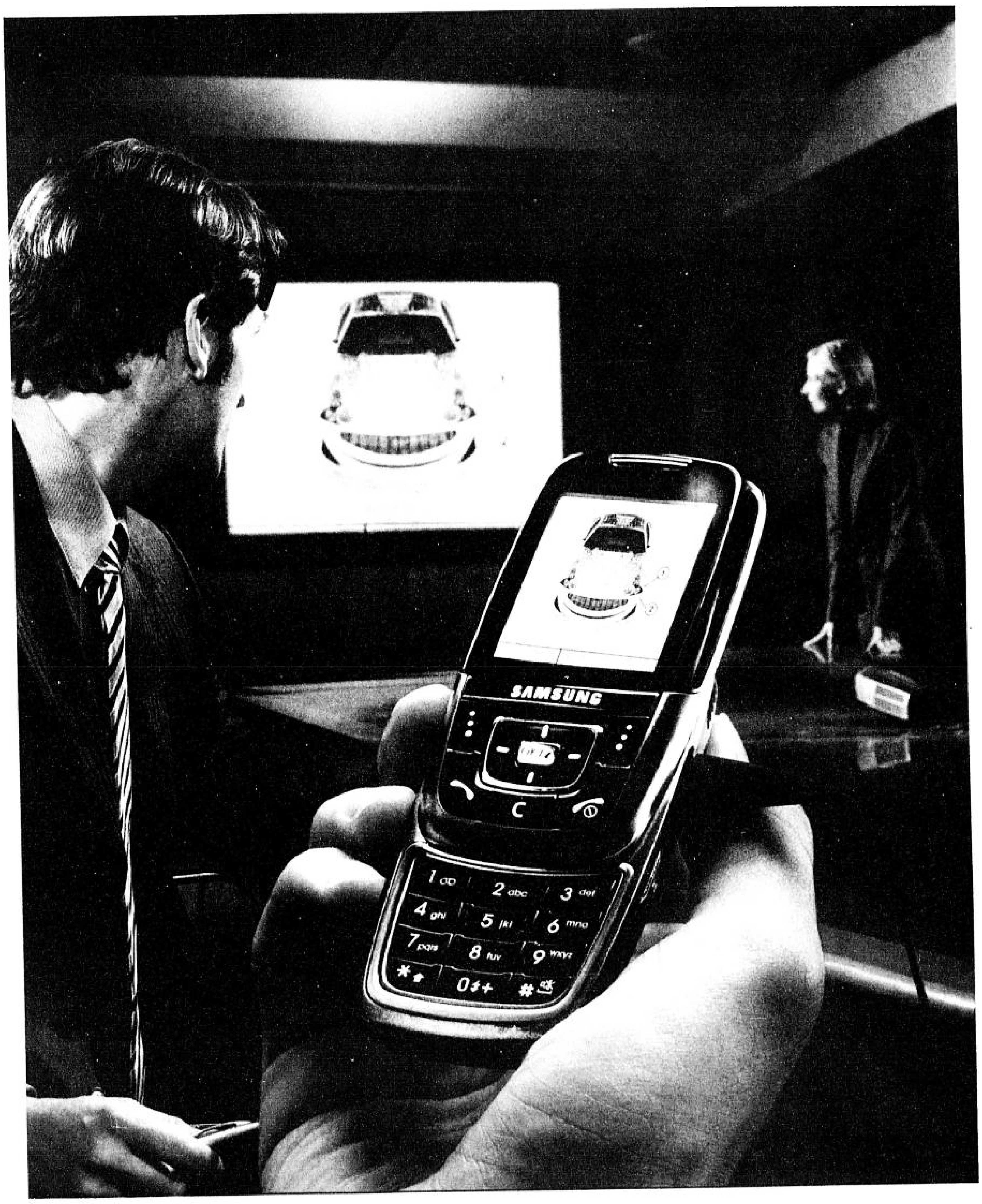
AQUATIC VISION. Bianca Valerio won some new Technomarine eyewear; Alvin Alfonso goes low

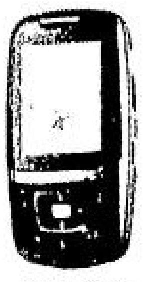
DLSU Batch '81 party

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY'S BATCH '81 is inviting all La Sallians (including graduates from La Salle-operated schools), their families and friends to a pre-homecoming fellowship party on Nov. 9 at the NBC Tent at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The party, with its theme "Swing Back to the '70s," promises to be a night of all-out fun and reminiscing, with music provided by the Replay Band.

Party starts 6 p.m. until midnight.





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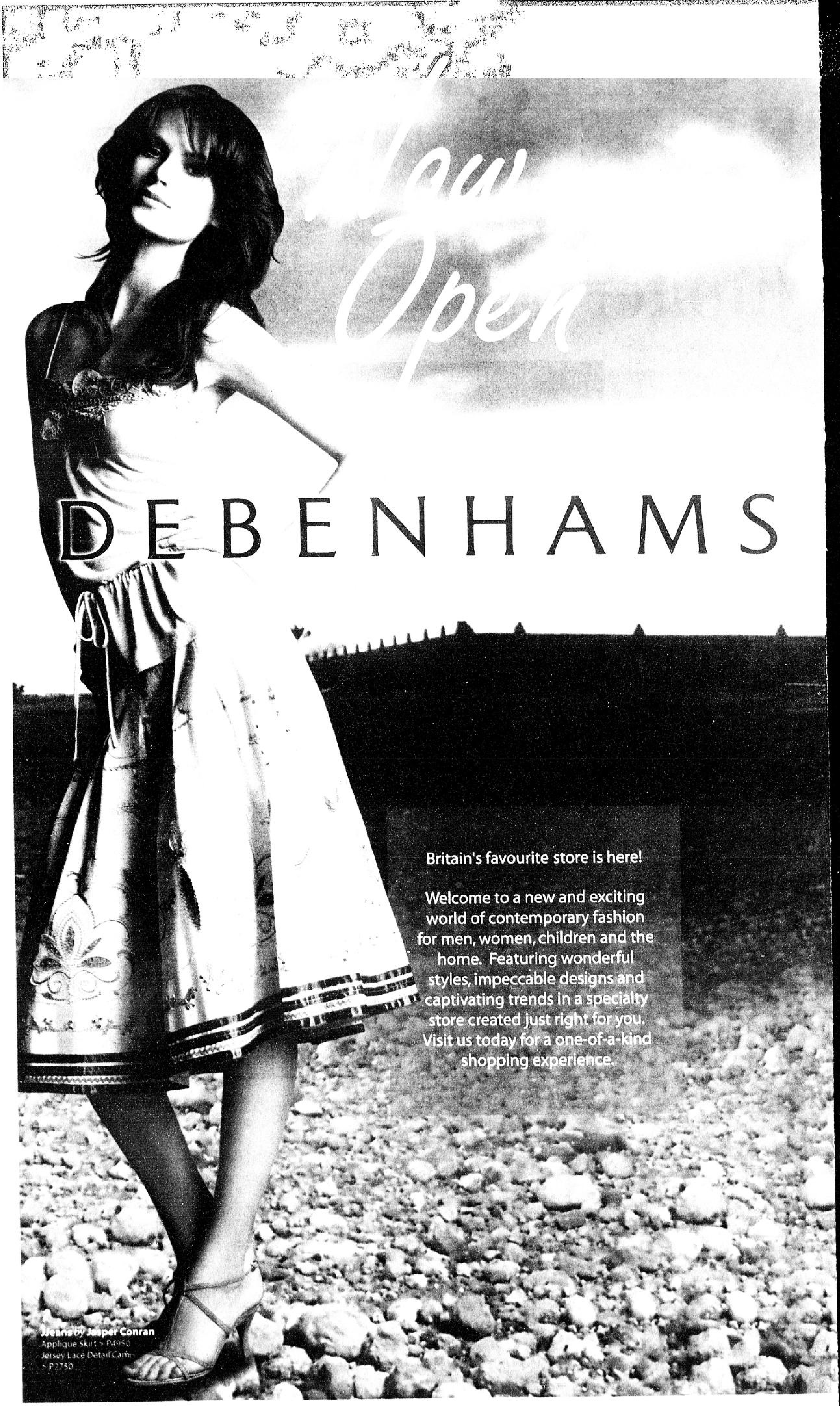

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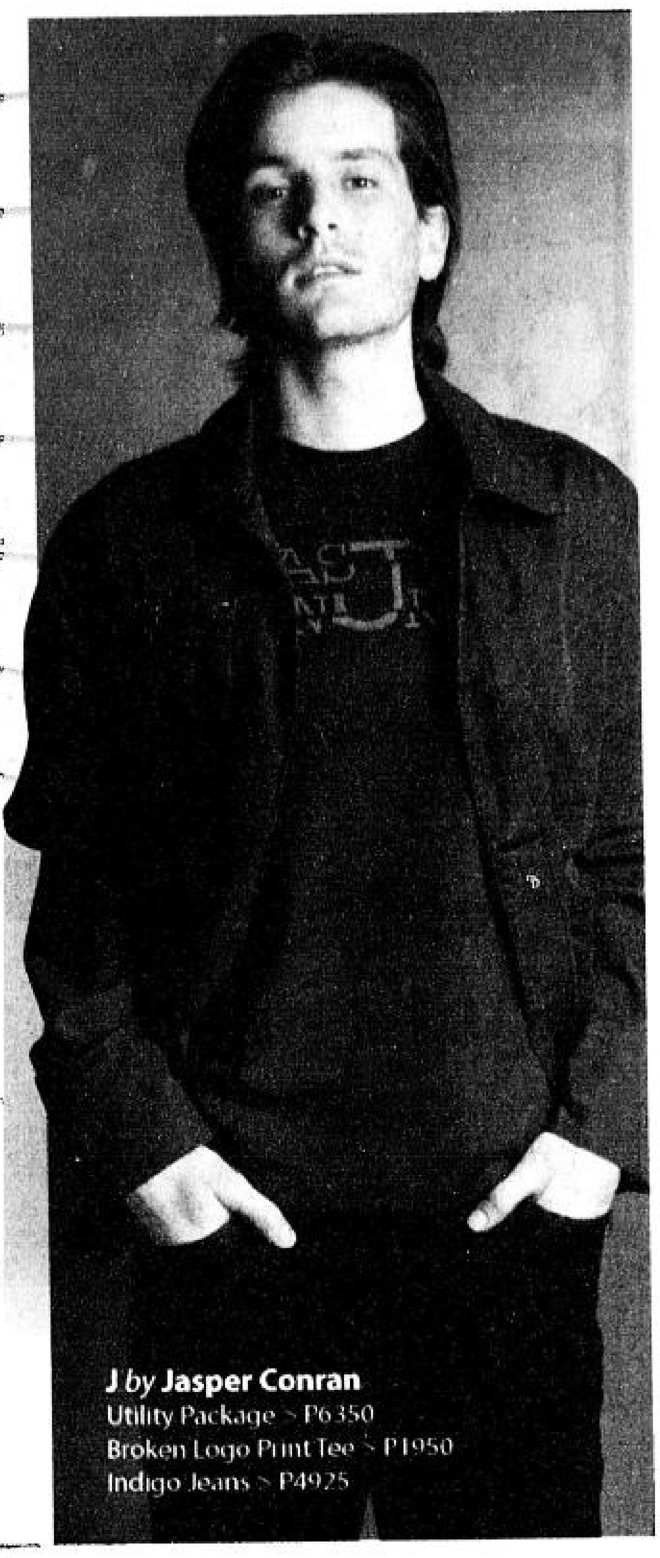

J *by* **Jasper Conran**
Utility Package > P6350
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Exclusive collections from Britain's top designers

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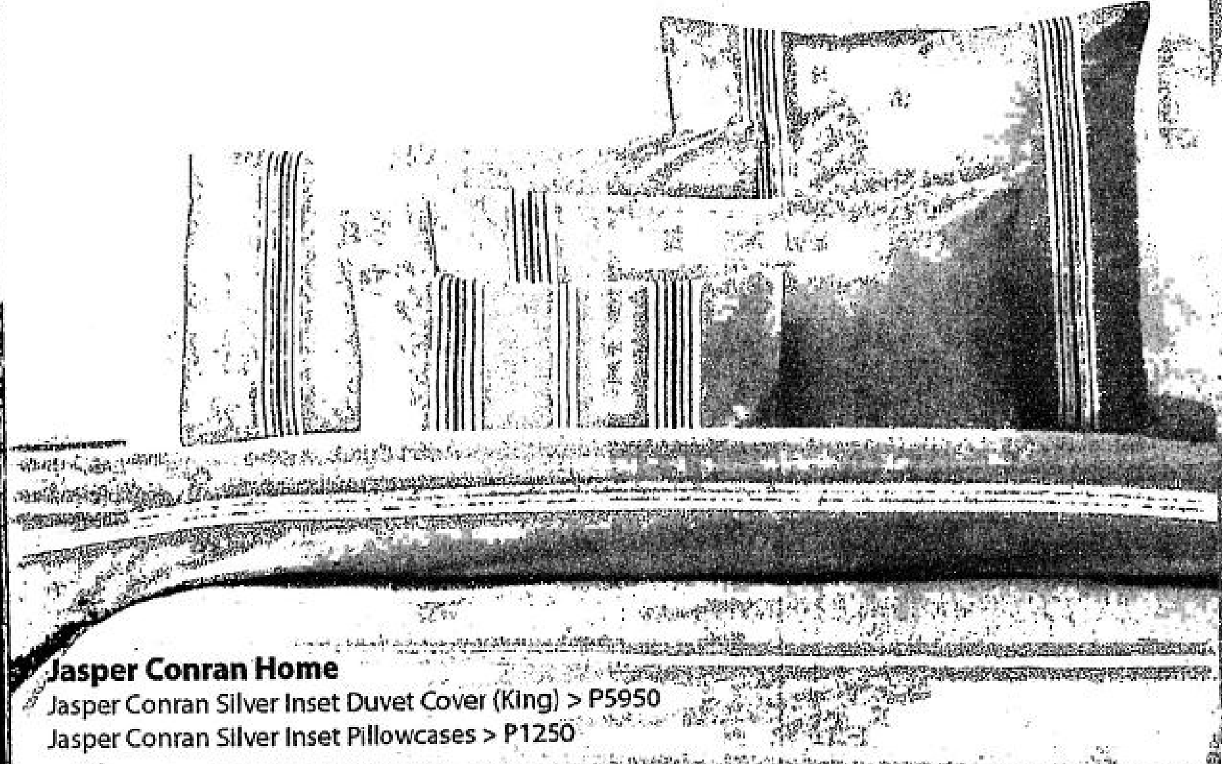

Jasper Conran Home
Jasper Conran Silver Inset Duvet Cover (King) > P5950
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Contemporary fashion from Debenhams' own brands

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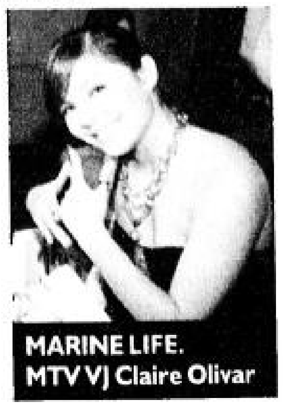
THE EYES HAVE IT. Nancy Castiglione, Bianca King and Marco Alcaraz

TECHNO ROYALTY. Raffy and Kat Florencio


MARINE LIFE. MTV VJ Claire Olivar

TECHNOMARINE, ETC. Frank Dubarry with Sam Oh

SHADES OF SIGN. MTV VJs John Joe Joseph and Don Puno

TECHNO-MINUTE! Pia Guanio and Mike Jacob look cute together.

Jupiter returns

From page C1

lage, Makati, or call 8971352.)

Still bored? Get out of your cubicle and hop over to Jupiter's arms and embrace the orbit of the planetarily aligned street of treats.

Sea something new

Back home at Embassy, I hobnobbed with French man **Frank Dubarry** over dinner at Cuisine. Frank, along with **Serge Choukron**, were the guests of honor of **Raffy Florencio**, the man responsible for adding that bling to the time-piece industry by bringing in the spectacular celebrity favorite, the Technomarine watch.

This time, they had something new. From adorning the wrists of the A-list, they went underwater and produced stunning pieces of eyewear to match your diamond-studded hands.

I hosted the event and presented my co-endorsers—Jay-R, **Bianca King, Marco Alcaraz** and **Nancy Castiglione.**

I also got to preview the new Technomarine Hummer—the latest "it" watch you must get a hold of. Think testosterone dangling from your wrist—it's raging so you feel like conquering the road, or the world, for that matter.

Being a celebration of bling, the dinner at Cuisine extended to an all-out "danceteria" party at the Super Club, with a style salute directed by **Ariel Lozada.** Models cascaded in aquatic inspirations so yummy you'd want to eat them. I meant the eyewear. And the watches, too.

The climax was when the raffle came. The partiphiliacs got a splash of prizes that made their night sizzle even more. During the event, we all wore our sunglasses at night, and how!

This week's hottest

We're all getting Lofty this Wednesday so head over to Shu Uemura's launch of its latest cleansing oils. These skin purifiers are so magical you'd want to pour them all over your body.

Plus, I want to lead the Smart Infinity bidding for the auction of Super artist **Jason Moss'** masterpieces. Hopefully, I'll win one of the Motorola flip Pebl phones—too cute! Also, Brit brand Debenhams opens its doors at Shangri-La Plaza today—check it out.

Friday, **Jeannie Goulbourn** will release her latest Silk Cocoon collection, weaving the uniquely Filipino fiber into the most distinct and beautiful creations. It happens at the Ayala Museum.

Then head over to another cocoon, as Kokun Events, clubmadonna.ph and Warner Music present the official launch of **Madonna**'s newest album, "Confessions on a Dance Floor," at Club Government. This will be from 10 p.m. onward. Of course, you must wear only pink or fuchsia.

And on Saturday, from one gay magnet to another, witness **Celine Lopez**'s T-shirt launch at Mix in Greenbelt. I haven't seen her collection yet, but knowing my quirky character of a friend, she is up to something crazy-sexy-cool again.

If Andy Warhol were still alive, he'd be so busy attending all these events that there would be no more time for artist's angst.

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American idol Constantine in Manila!

AFTER PIONEERING THE most exciting in-mall events in the country with the recent Philippine visits of the Fab Two Kyan Douglas and Thom Filicia and best-selling author Greg Behrendt, the Ayala Commercial Group does it again, this time with "American Idol" hottie Constantine Maroulis.

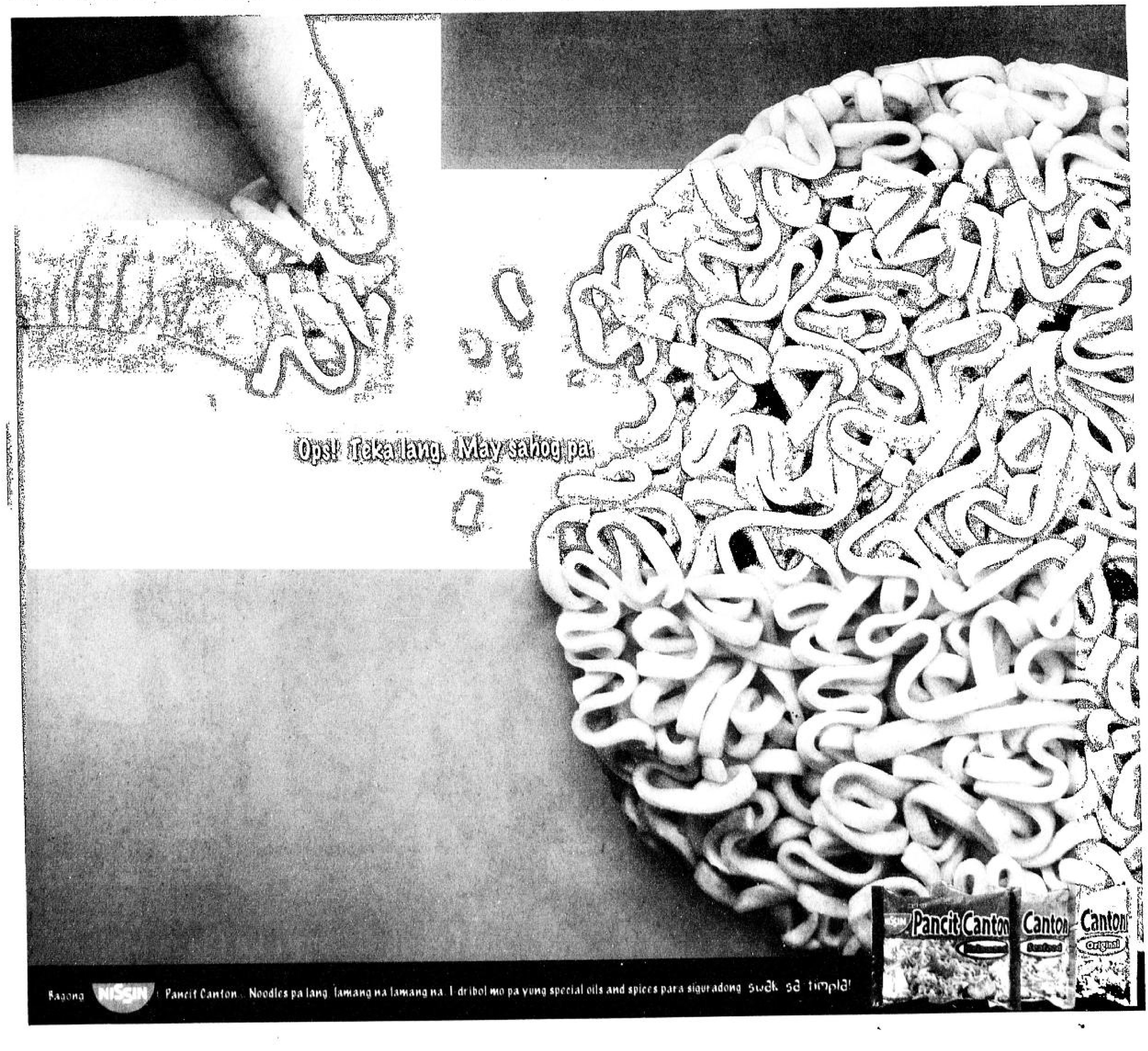
Constantine is set to hit local shores with a concert at Ayala Greenbelt, Makati, on Nov. 17, 8 p.m. He will make an appearance at the Alabang Town Center on Nov. 18, and Ayala Center Cebu on Nov. 19.

Constantine captured the hearts of millions in the fourth season of American Idol. And millions more were disappointed when he was sent home in a startling upset that brought judge Paula Abdul to tears.

But the world definitely hasn't heard the last of Constantine. After a successful "American Idol" tour, he went on to record "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the Queen tribute album, and recently signed up with ABC for a television sitcom produced by Kelsey Grammer of "Frasier" fame.

Prior to this, he was an established thespian. He also had appearances in various shows such as "Strangler's Wife" and "Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit."

CONSTANTINE Maroulis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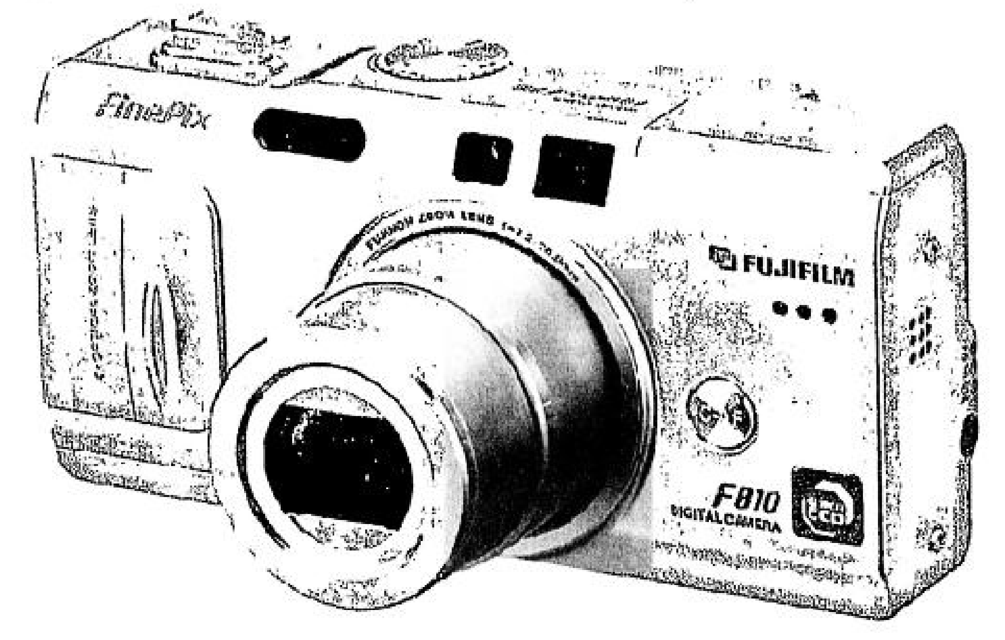


FUJIFILM F-180

Meet Mr. Snap Happy

By Gabriel H. Mercado
2bU! Contributor

THE FUJIFILM F-180 DIGITAL camera offers the "Super CCD HR Sensor" and a 6.63-megapixel 1.17-inch CCD that delivers 6.3 million recorded pixels. This allows it not only five standard modes (4,048 x 3,040; 2,848 x 2,136; 2,048 x 1,536; 1,600 x 1,200; 640 x 480 pixels) but also five wide-screen modes as well (3,968 x 2,232; 3,200 x 1,800; 2,304 x 1,296; 2,048 x 1,152; 768 x 432 pixels).

To facilitate the wide-screen mode, the camera has a 2.1-inch wide-screen liquid crystal display, which lengthens the image to a somewhat wider than normal 109.5 mm. Other features include a 4x optical (6.3x digital zoom) function, Auto Focus/AF Area Focus/AF Center Focus/Manual Focus, F2.8-F8 at wide-angle and F5.6-F8 at telephoto, continuous shooting mode of three frames/second up to four frames, and a movie mode with standard mode 640 x 480/320 x 240 pixels, 30 frames/second and wide-screen modes at 320 x 184 pixels, both with monaural sound. You can save images not only on standard JPEG format but CCD-RAW as well.

Ok, now, did you get all that? To be honest, with a few exceptions, neither did I. Is it all crucially important to know? To be honest again, not really. And when I got my hands on the sexy, brushed aluminum Fujifilm F-180's compact, elongated body, viewed my subject via the 2.1-inch wide-screen LCD, snapped pictures quickly and with very little hassle, and then just as quickly and with even less hassle, viewed them on playback mode afterward, I'm glad I didn't need to know all those things—a testament to how "snap-happy" you're going to be when you have this camera.

Back to the features

But at some point, features and details are important, so they should be discussed. The F-180's claim to fame, in fact, is the ability to take wide-screen shots, thereby doubling its shot resolutions from the standard (2,848 x 2,136; 2,048 x 1,536; 1,600 x 1,200; 640 x 480 pixels) at 4,048 x 3,040 or 12.3 million recorded pixels, to wide screen as well (3,200 x 1,800; 2,304 x 1,296; 2,048 x 1,152; 768 x 432 pixels) at 3,968 x 2,232 or 8.9 million recorded pixels.

What does this all mean? It means those with wide-screen television sets can actually now make use of the extra screen coverage.

Another important feature is the built-in flash, smartly flushed on the left side of the body.

Weighing in at 200 g, the camera is not especially heavy, but just a little heavier than most cameras in its class. This is primarily again because of the wide-screen ability, making it a tad wider as well, but not especially taller or thicker at 54 mm high and 29 mm thick.

You will also notice the apparently found-on-this-brand-only "scroll-barrel" gizmo beside the LCD screen at the back to help scroll through pictures quickly, a departure from the usual difficult-to-click left and right arrow type design.

> Equipped with a wide-screen ability, the camera is surprisingly easy to use, a real treat for the photo-manic

Easy to use

How hard is it to use? Thankfully, on this aspect, the Fujifilm F-180 really shines.

After changing the settings from 4,048 x 3,040 wide-screen mode to the more realistic 1,600 x 1,200 standard mode, I was snapping away like crazy.

For some odd reason, every digital camera I've tested always comes out of the box with settings at the very highest, hence the 16-mb included XD card the Fuji came with was full after only 10 shots. At this new setting I could at least take 25 shots before downloading to my computer. And setting at 640 x 480 would even let me take up to a 120+ frames if I have to. I eventually probably will, though, as the F-180 is really Mr. Snap Happy.

First, it is the fastest digital camera I've used. From the moment you switch it on, the slight whirring sound has the lens extending smartly out, and you're ready to go in approximately one second —a marvel for anyone who has ever had a moment worth taking a picture of pass them by. When it comes to taking a pic of baby's first step, that funny signage on the road that's about to zoom by, or a terrific sunset, Mr. Snap Happy will not let you down.

Keep in mind, having a quick easy-to-use camera isn't only good for the odd quick picture. It's good for every situation, like when you decide you want to make a cookbook, or a how-to-manual while you're doing the task itself.

I took pictures while cooking *nilagang baka*, and, I kept the camera clean (whew) and safe, and took enough frames to document a step-by-step process.

Overall, I'd recommend the F-180. It delivers what it says on paper, and then some, such as its wide-screen ability, manual mode, auto-focus, automatic white balance, "red-eye," PictBridge compatibility, various flash settings and other niceties, resulting in crisp pics.

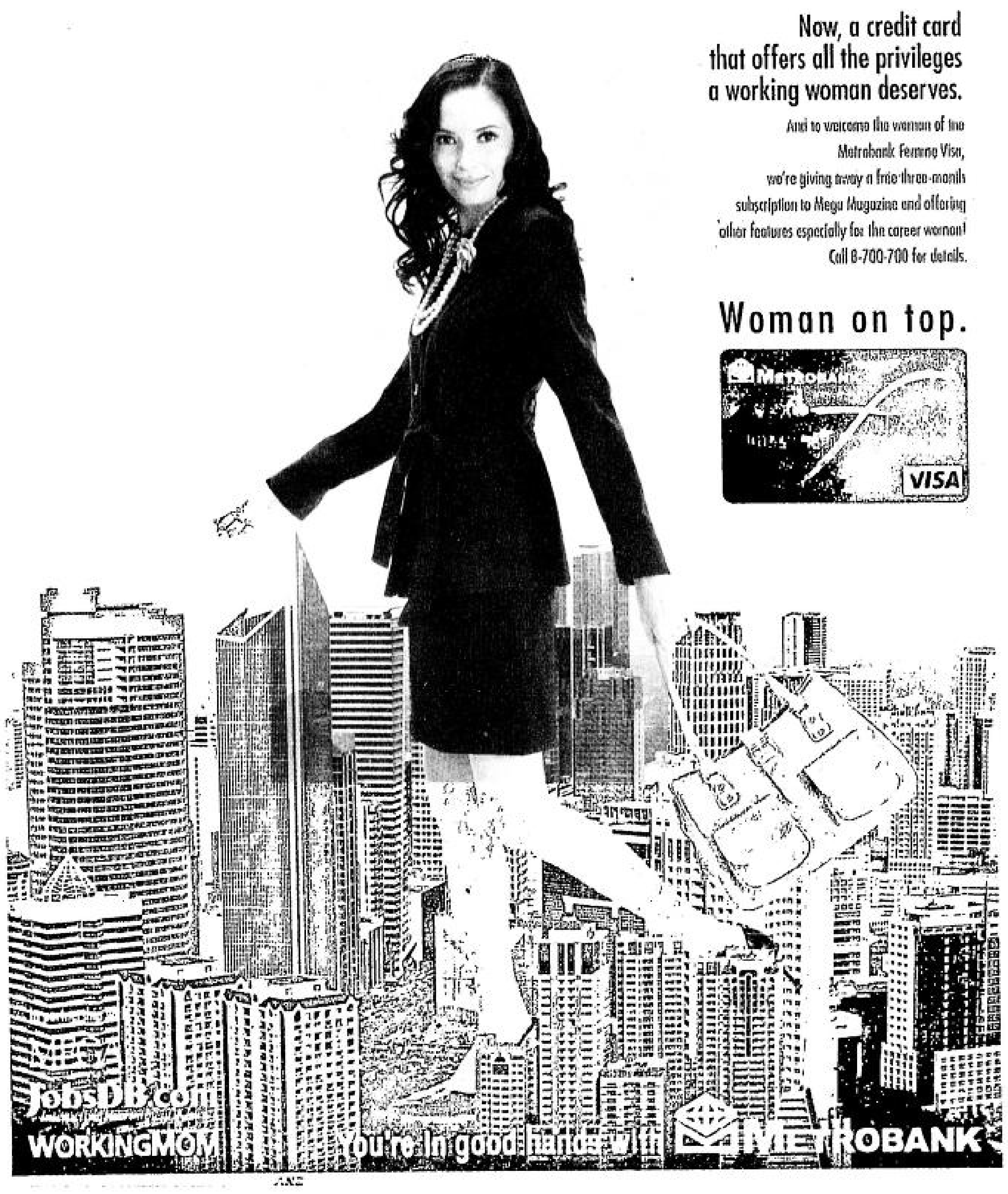
But, primarily, I like it because it's quick and easy to use. A real snap-happy.

Win this camera!

BECAUSE IT'S 2BU!'S BIRTHday month and because we wouldn't be here without you, we'll be giving away more great prizes for the rest of the year.

This week, 2bU! and Digital Exchange will be giving away a Fujifilm F-180 Digital Camera to the one person who deserves it the most.

If you want to join our contest, tell us why you deserve to win this phone in the most creative way you can. E-mail your entries to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph. Don't forget your name, school/office and contact info.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PROFESSION: PILOT
CAREER: ACTOR

Photographed by Patricia von Ah on the private runway of the Travolta residence in Ocala, Florida.

"I LIKE TO FLY AT LEAST ONCE A DAY."

People are acquainted with the star, the multi-faceted actor. But John Travolta is also a seasoned pilot with more than 5,000 flight hours under his belt, and is certified on eight different aircraft, including the Boeing 747-400 Jumbo Jet. As a young boy in New Jersey, he already used to dream of flying as he watched planes criss-crossing the sky around the New York airports. Today, John Travolta travels the world at the controls of his own airliner and nurtures a passion for everything that embodies the authentic spirit of aviation. Like BREITLING wrist instruments. Founded in 1884, BREITLING has shared all the finest hours in aeronautical history. Models such as the NAVITIMER have become cult objects for pilots the world over. Where safety is of crucial importance, BREITLING is known as the specialist in reliable and high-performance "wrist instruments" designed and tested for the most demanding professionals. BREITLING chronographs meet the highest standards of sturdiness and functionality, and are equipped with movements that are chronometer-certified by the COSC (Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute) – the highest reference in terms of precision and reliability. One simply does not become an aviation supplier by chance.

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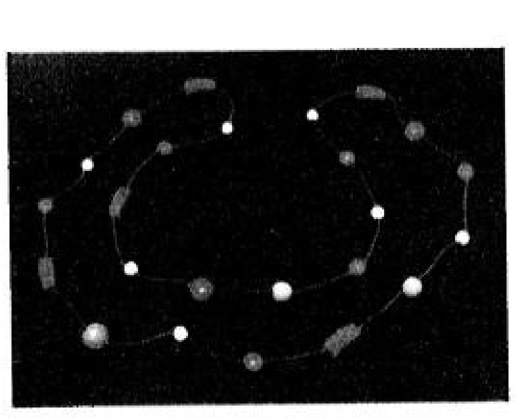

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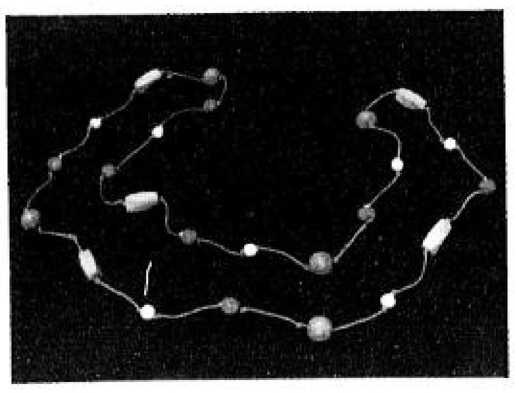


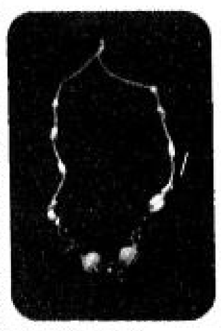
All the beads you can handle

Here are three hot brands to quench your thirst for colorful accessories

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Romy Homillada

WE ALL SEEM TO HAVE AN unquenchable thirst for beads. We keep stocking up on them even if we know we can't wear all of them at once. To aid you in your constant search for new beaded creations that would bring more hues to your already colorful wardrobe, the Fashion Freaks tracked down three hot bead sources. Check out their designs which are fun, funky and affordable.

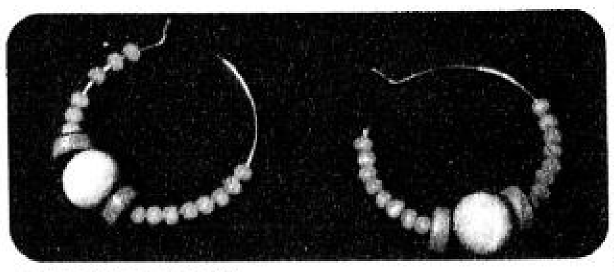
Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com.



NECKLACE, P164.75

NECKLACE, P164.75

NECKLACE, P164.75



EARRINGS, P64.75

BRACELET, P164.75

BRACELET, P144.75

BRACELET, P164.75

Ang G

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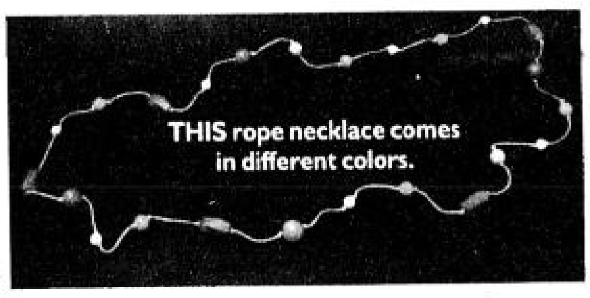

THIS rope necklace comes in different colors.

Chic Finds

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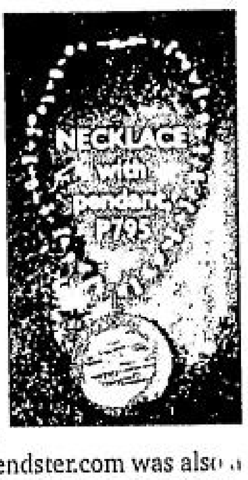

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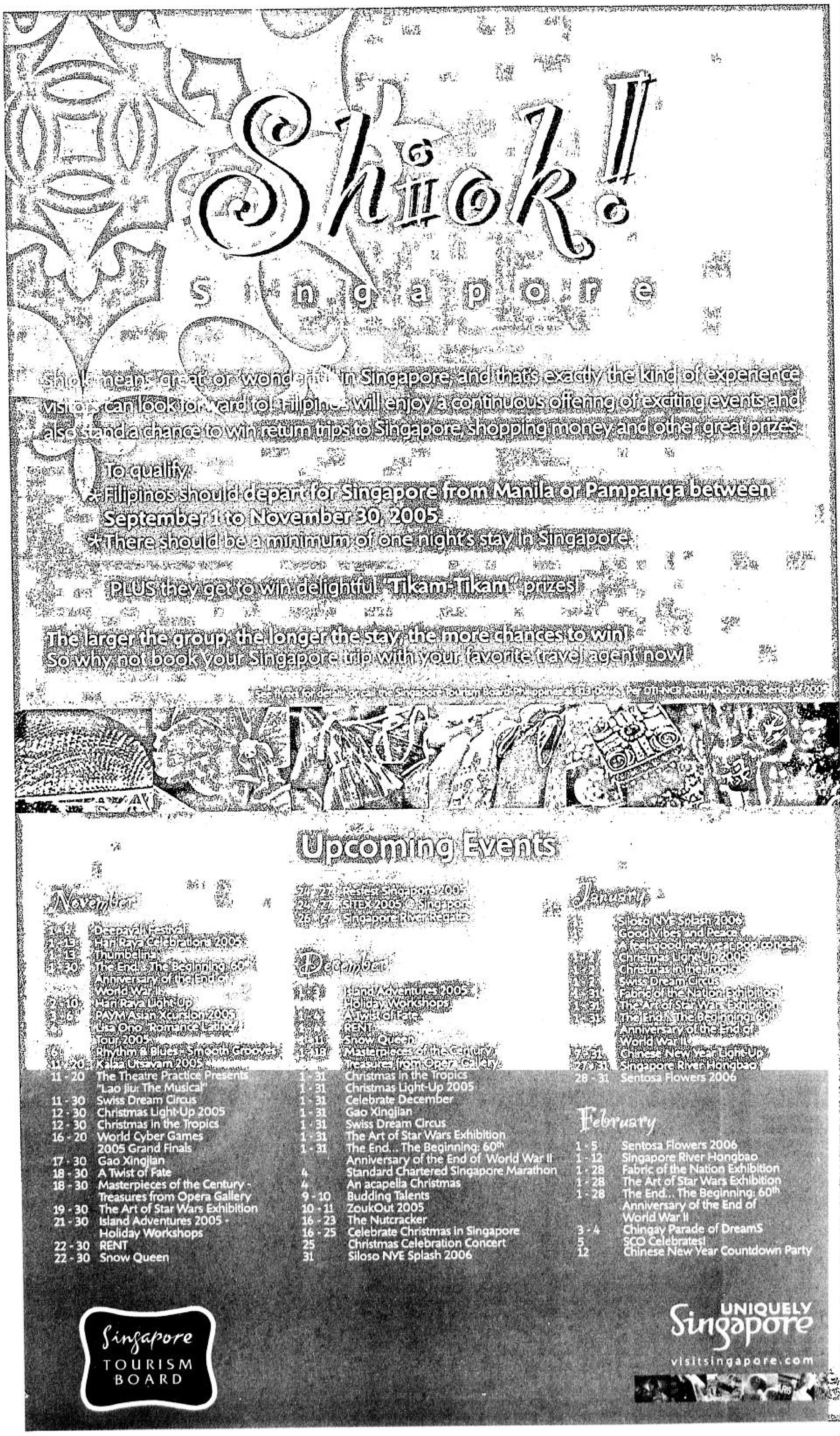
Check out Chic Finds at Salts Accessories at Chocolate Clothing Co. and Mag:net branches. Call 09[illegible] 5356606 or e-mail chic_finds@yahoo.com

ALL THE BEADS D4



Shiok!
singapore

Shiok means great or wonderful in Singapore, and that's exactly the kind of experience visitors can look forward to. Filipinos will enjoy a continuous offering of exciting events and also stand a chance to win return trips to Singapore, shopping money and other great prizes.

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So why not book your Singapore trip with your favorite travel agent now!

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Upcoming Events

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1 - 13 Thumbelina
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19 - 30 The Art of Star Wars Exhibition
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22 - 30 RENT
22 - 30 Snow Queen
21 - 27 [illegible] Singapore 2005
24 - 27 SITEX 2005 @ Singapore
26 - 27 Singapore River Regatta

December
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1 - 4 RENT
1 - 11 Snow Queen
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1 - 31 Christmas Light-Up 2005
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12 Chinese New Year Countdown Party

Singapore TOURISM BOARD

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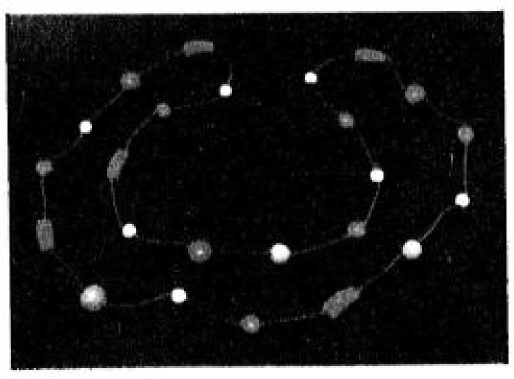
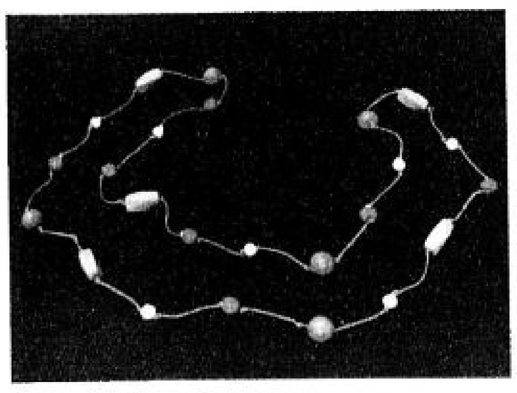
All the beads you can handle

Here are three hot brands to quench your thirst for colorful accessories



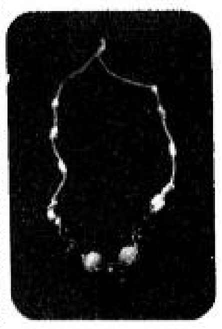
SALTS Accessories are made from local, natural products.



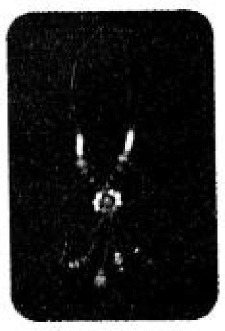
By Pam Pastor
Photos by Romy Homillada

WE ALL SEEM TO HAVE AN unquenchable thirst for beads. We keep stocking up on them even if we know we can't wear all of them at once. To aid you in your constant search for new beaded creations that would bring more hues to your already colorful wardrobe, the Fashion Freaks tracked down three hot bead sources. Check out their designs which are fun, funky and affordable.

Do you want the Fashion Freaks to visit your store or check out your wares? E-mail us at thefashionfreaks@yahoo.com .



NECKLACE, P164.75



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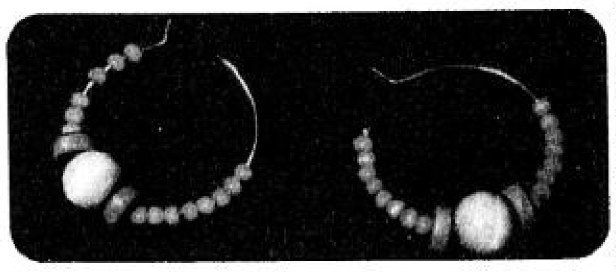

EARRINGS, P64.75

BRACELET, P164.75

BRACELET, P144.75

BRACELET, P164.75

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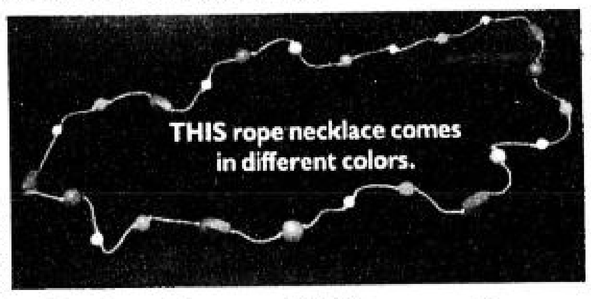

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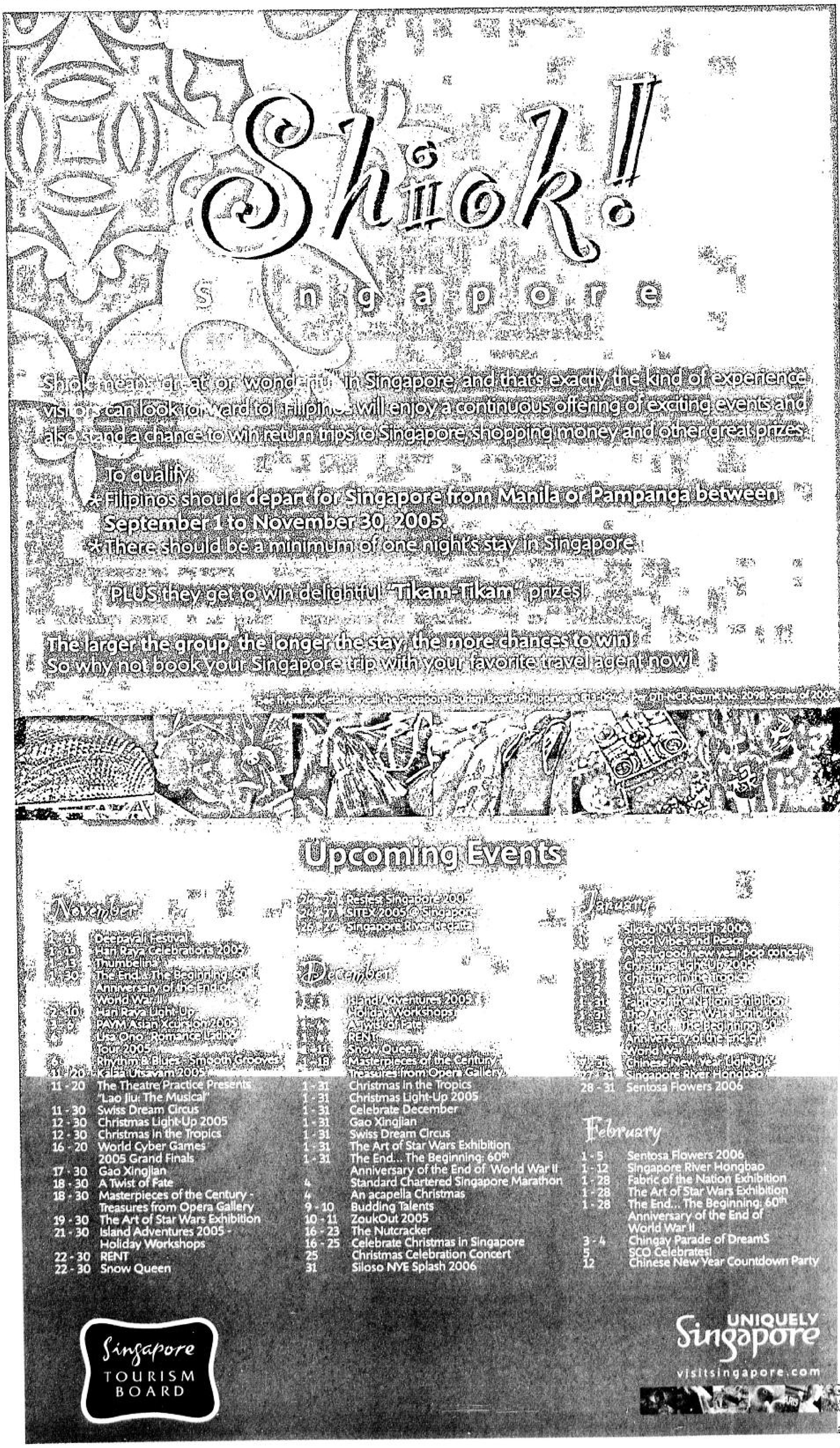
ALL THE BEADS D4



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See flyers for details or call the Singapore Tourism Board Philippines at [illegible] DTI-NCR Permit No. 2098 Series of 2005

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Singapore TOURISM BOARD

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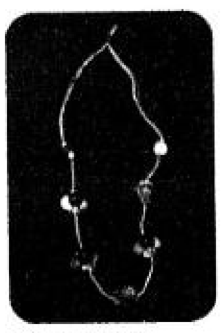
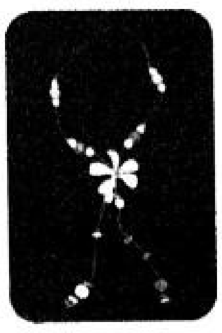


NECKLACE, P264.75



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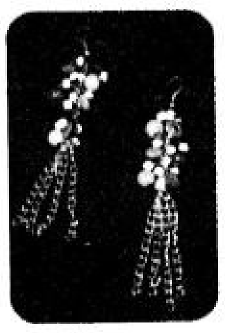
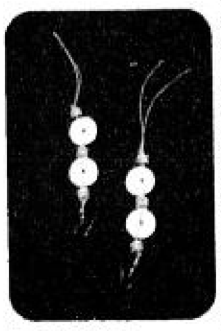


EARRINGS, P144.75



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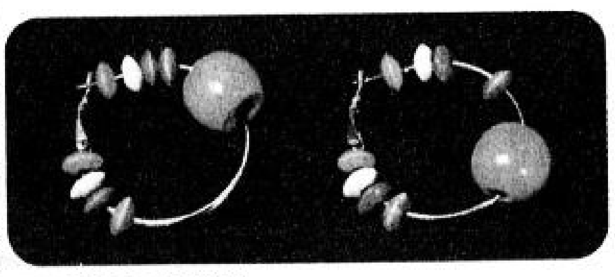

EARRINGS, P144.75

BRACELET, P164.75

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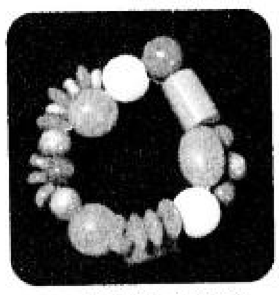
One of the things we love the most about Ang Gara is the fact that they offer free repair services. "Any items bought in our store can be repaired in any of our branches. Our stores are equipped with the necessary tools and materials and our store personnel are trained to immediately repair the damaged items."

Although most of their stores carry clothes, too, their bestsellers are really the accessories.

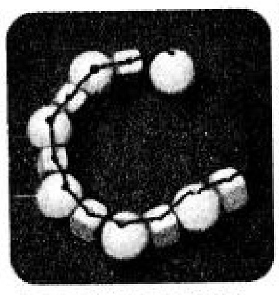
From January 2003 to July 2005, Ang Gara has sold 85,556 pieces. That's pretty cool, we think. But for Cynthia and Jolly, their business means more than just selling accessories. "We were motivated to provide a source of living to other people. Our main vision was to help others by providing them employment through our business."

They believe there are many great things about being young entrepreneurs. "Being young makes us more adventurous, aggressive and brave to enter the business world. Our passion allows us to balance work with pleasure. Working is fun. Working is happiness."

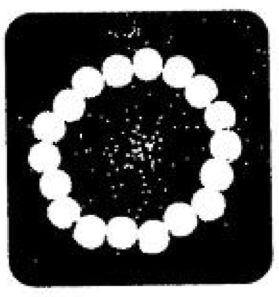
Visit Ang Gara at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Greenbelt Shopping Center, Pavilion Mall, Robinsons Place Imus, Metropoint Mall, SM City Marilao, SM City Dasmariñas, Robinsons Galleria, Market! Market!, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila and Glorietta 1.



BRACELET, P164.75



BRACELET, P119.75

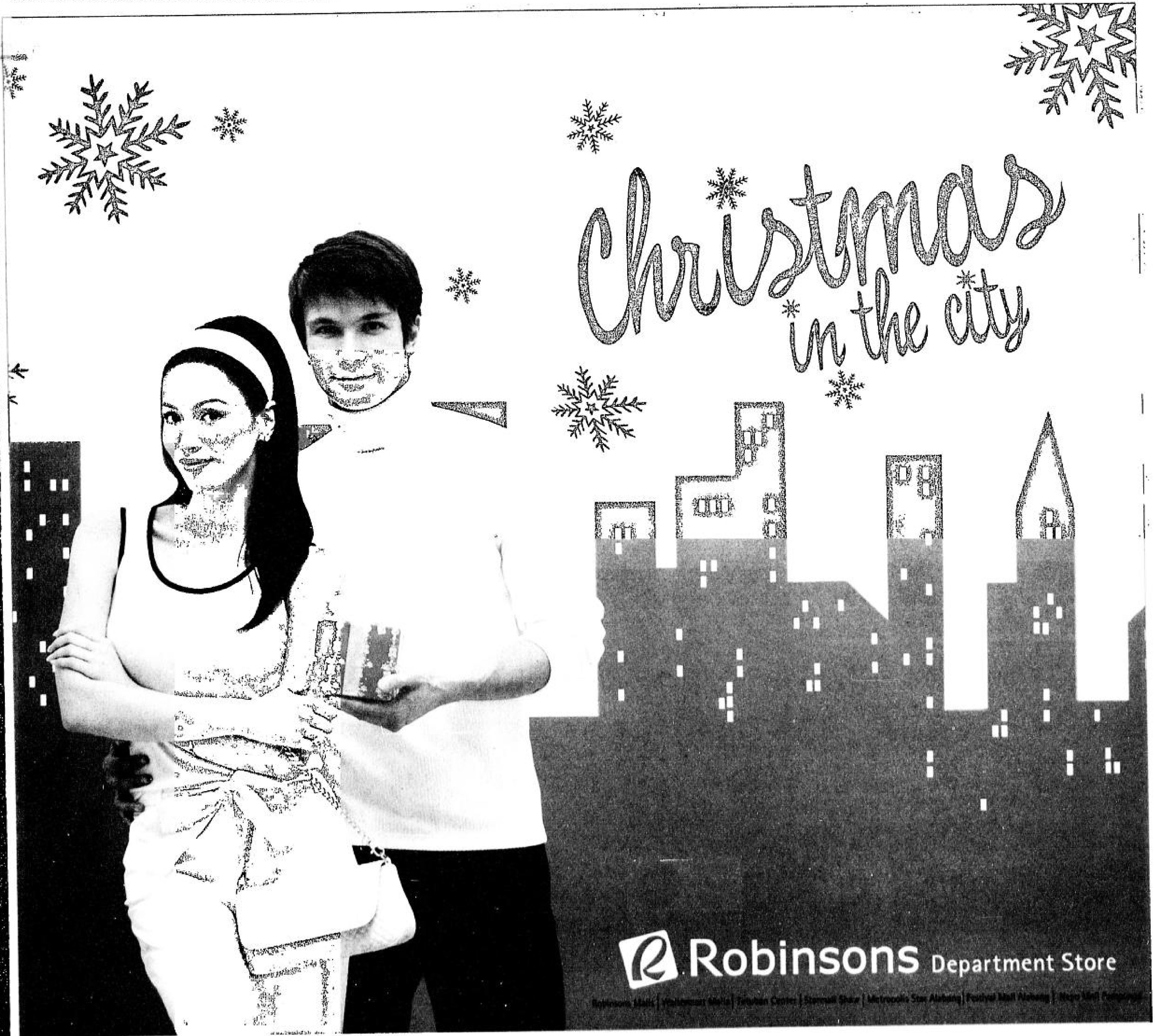


BRACELET, P34.75

m&m's BRAND
Tune into M&M's® and move to the beat of fun & music this Christmas.
Chance upon WINNING cool prizes!
Jazz Up Your Christmas
1000
100
3
10
JOIN NOW!!!
Buy specially marked M&M's® packs at participating stores and TEXT-IN your entries.
TEXT mmjazz Raffle Code/Name/Address//Age
SEND TO: 2219 (Globe, Touch Mobile & Sun Cellular)
638 (Smart, Addict Mobile, Talk n' Text)

Mechanics:
1. Buy specially marked packs of M&M's® Chocolate: Milk, Peanut, Crispy and Minis with an M&M's® Jazz Up Your Christmas sticker from participating establishments. Each pack will have a unique alphanumeric raffle code printed on it.
2. To join the promo, just text MMJAZZ raffle code/name/complete address/age to 2219 for Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular Subscribers and 638 for Smart, Addict Mobile and Talk n' Text Subscribers. P2.50 will be charged per text message sent.
   Example: MMJAZZ A1234/Ann Garcia/8 Mango St. Project 4, Quezon City/18
   For succeeding entries, just type MMJAZZ raffle code
   Example: MMJAZZ B5678
3. M&M's® packs with the Jazz Up Your Christmas stickers must be kept and shall be presented for verification purposes in order to claim the prize.
4. Prizes include: Total of 3 units Honda Jazz Cars, 10 units. Sony Ericsson W800i Walkman™ Phones, 100 units Apple Mini I-Pods and 1,000 pcs. CD's from Odyssey Record Bars.
5. Weekly cut-off dates for entries will be every Sunday, 11:59pm.
6. Draws will be held in the presence of a representative from BFAD, Cube Interactive and Master Foods Philippines, Inc.
7. Winners will be sent a text message with accompanying instructions on how to claim the prize. Winners must be prepared to present the text message notification together with the M&M's® wrapper with the winning raffle code. Damaged, altered and/or tampered stickers, as well as wrappers with no promo stickers and vice versa will be disqualified and rendered invalid.
8. Verified winners will then be eligible to claim their prize.
9. Prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
10. All prizes are tax paid.
11. Employees of Master Foods Philippines Inc, all their agencies, suppliers, partners and sponsors, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

M&M's® Registered Trademark of Mars, Incorporated ©Mars, 2005. Promo will run from Oct. 15 - Dec. 31, 2005. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1107. Series of 2005.



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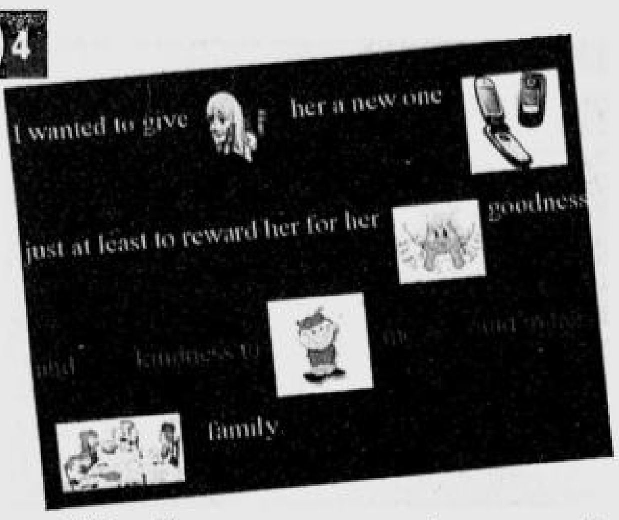

I wanted to give her a new one
just at least to reward her for her goodness
and kindness to me and my
family.

We have a winner!

WE WERE FLOODED WITH hundreds and hundreds of e-mails from readers who all wanted to win the Samsung SGH-E730.

These 2bU! readers are a creative bunch. We received a lot of Power Point presentations, flash animations, collages, drawings, stories and poems.

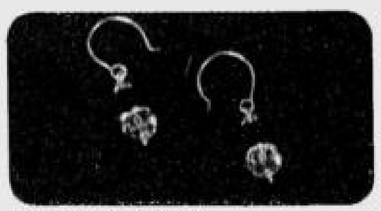
But Edgar Allan Juane of Las Piñas City won us over with his sweet tribute to his girlfriend.

Congratulations, Edgar, you can soon surprise the love of your life with her very own Samsung SGH-E730. Please call Ching dela Cruz of PDI's marketing department at 8978808 and she'll tell you how you can claim your prize.

You too can be a winner like Edgar.

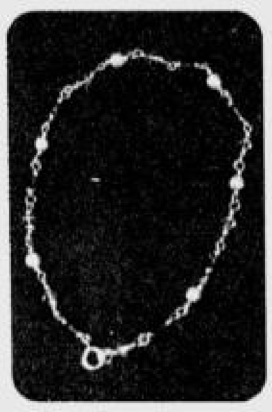
From page D2

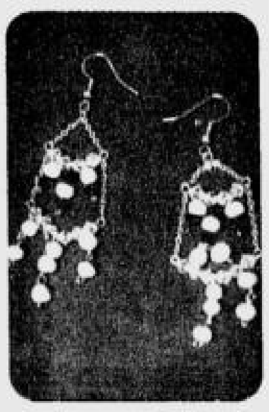
All the beads you can handle

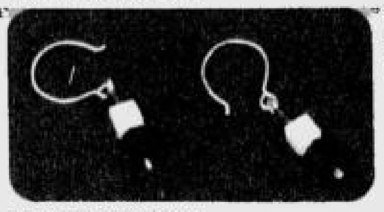

EARRINGS, P180

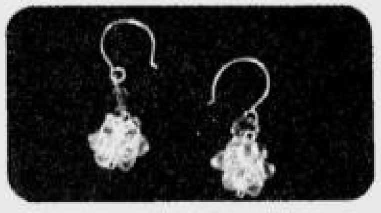
EARRINGS, P240

REDSIES anklet, P400


FUCHSIA anklet, P380


EARRINGS, P200


EARRINGS, P180


EARRINGS, P340

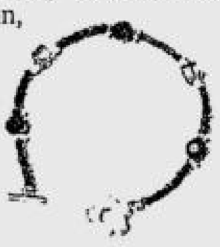
Beads at Work

LIKE MANY YOUNG DESIGNERS, 18-year-old Allyson Cheng first started making accessories for her own use. "I was browsing the Internet and I found this website that was full of handmade accessories. I told myself, "I can also do that or maybe even better!"

Soon, this student at College of Saint Benilde had made way too many accessories for her to wear so her family gave her the idea of selling them for extra cash. Just like that, Beads at Work was born.

Ally started selling her accessories to friends and to people online. Most clients are women, but some men ask her to customize accessories for their girlfriends or spouses. Ally describes her products as "fun, unique, attractive and classy."

She makes each accessory by hand, ensuring their uniqueness. "I don't mass-produce my jewelry," she said. "You don't have to worry that you'll bump into another person wearing the same accessory. When a customer loves a design that's already been sold, I encourage them to pick another color or other components to make the items unique."


PURPLEY bracelet, P500

Her bestsellers are her earrings and silver accessories embellished with Swarovski crystals.

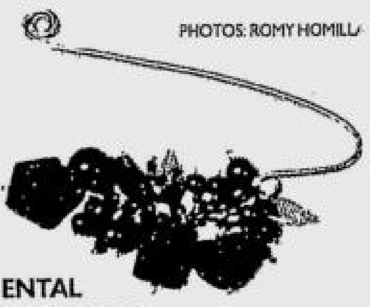
Ally has a hard time deciding when asked to choose her favorite. "All of them are my favorites because each design has its own characteristics that make them unique from one another."

Her clients are sometimes surprised when they find out that an 18-year-old made the accessories they love. But age has not stopped Ally from enjoying her chosen path. "The best thing about it is talking to and meeting a lot of new people and making new friends. Seeing people wearing my accessories inspires me to do more and to pursue this. God inspires me to do better."

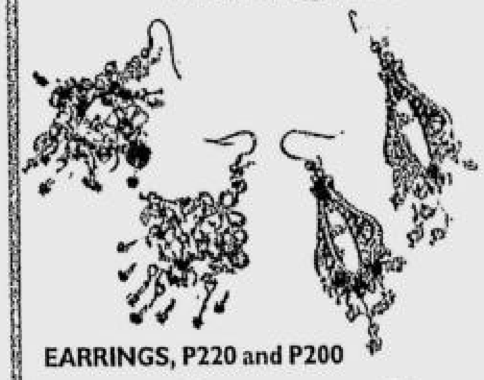
Her plans for the future include studying accessories design abroad and opening her own store.

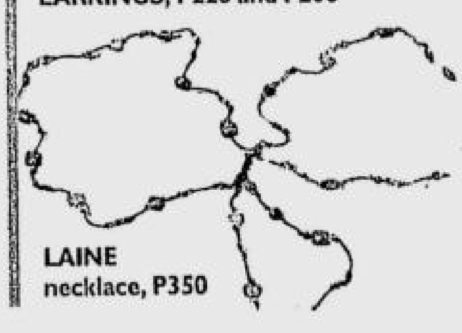
Check out Beads at Work at www.beadsatwork2.tk, beadsatwork.multiply.com, beadsatwork.blogspot.com and www.angelfire.com/al4/beadsatwork. Call 0916-7800313 or 0922-3988877. E-mail beads_at_work@yahoo.com

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLA


ORIENTAL Bookmark, P200

BLACKEYED bracelet, P580; earrings, P200


EARRINGS, P220 and P200


LAINE necklace, P350

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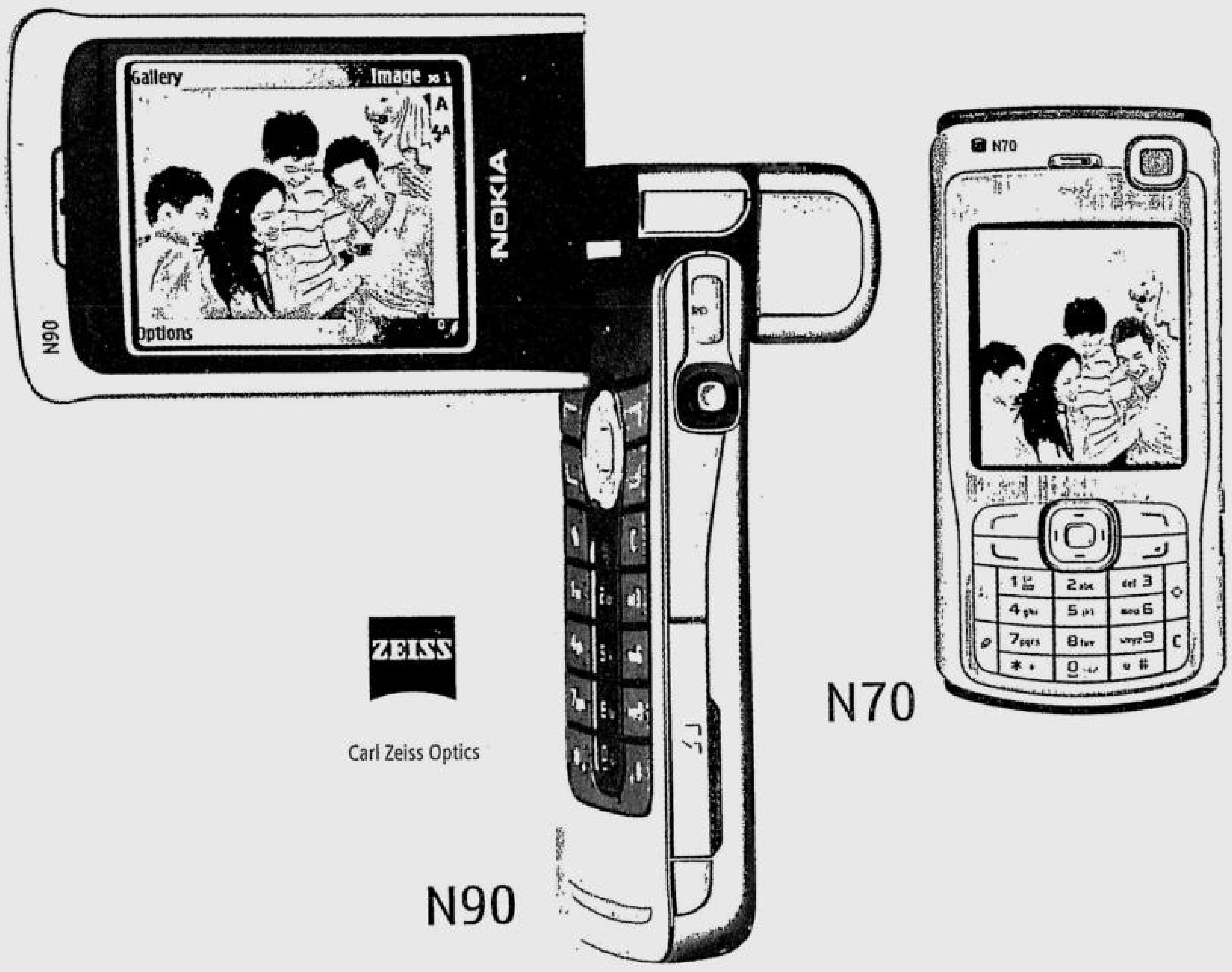

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2680 Series of 2005.

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Photo printing by: Kodak

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November 11, 2005 at METROWALK from 7pm to 1am
METROWALK

November 12, 2005 at EASTWOOD from 7pm to 1am

November 13, 2005 at GLOBAL CITY from 12nn to 4pm/6pm-12mn

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LIFESTYLE

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inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

'Kikay' armory

THE PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNOW ME WILL be the first ones to confirm that I am a tomboy. A baseball cap-wearing, sneaker-loving, eternally ponytail-sporting, basketball-obsessed, manicure-allergic, honest-to-goodness tomboy.

Sure, my extensive collection of beauty products (which my boyfriend calls a "department store") and (more than) well-stocked *kikay* kits betray this fact, but I should tell you I only use about .001 percent of my products at any given time.

Vanity Fare

Lora Gabol

But I have to admit, there are those times when I just want to bring out my loot and be the girly-girl I know I should (occasionally) be—those moments when all I really want to do is turn my pasty face into a picture of glowing, rosy-cheeked perfection. This is when I inevitably bring out the most *kikay* of my *kikay* collection, my girly-girliest stash.

Presenting all the products you'll ever need to be at your feminine best.

L'oreal Blush Delice in Pink Marshmallow. It is one thing to wear a natural flush, entirely another to blush like a pixie in love. When my mood calls for the latter, I don't have to think twice before fluffing up my blush brush and dipping it into this fruity pink compact.

It's the most perfect baby pink, yes, but it's the wonderful satin sheen it lends to my cheekbones that I really can't get enough of. It's precisely how "ethereal" is supposed to look, if you ask me.

Origins Halo Effect Instant Illuminator for the eyes. I'm usually anti-eye shadow, but when I want something to wake up my eyes without the need for tools or five extra minutes, I reach for this tiny bottle of pure magic.

It looks like liquid mercury in the bottle but turns into a sheer cooling shimmer wash on my lids. Petal Pink is my choice for fair complexions, though it also does subtly liven up dusky lids with a touch of glimmer.

Bobbi Brown Matte Stain for the Lips in Candy. When I've already loaded up on the estrogen all over and need just enough pretty on my lips, I dab on a little color care of this ultra-light lippie. The nude-pink shade is nothing too saccharine (as the name suggests), but it does give the I-just-bit-my-lip blush on your pucker just right.

Lancôme Palette Juicy Rouge. One look at this collection of four all-girl shades and you'll know it's something to bring out when you feel like a lady. From a day at the beach to a hot night clubbing, this palette has just the color you need on that kisser of yours.

The creamy formula and shine are a beautiful mix. Plus points for convenience: The compact comes with tiny brushes so you need not risk getting your fingers dirty after application.

Sugar Baby Luminising Powder in Opal Shimmer. I have turned into a huge fan of this line practically overnight! Not only does this line have the makings of the ultimate girly obsession, its prices are unbeatable, too!

This must-have, in particular, is icing on the cake. Depending on where you apply it, it gives a subtle iridescent shine that enhances, not overpowers. I love dusting some of it on my shoulders and décolletage, too.

Ralph Cool Eau de Toilette. Considering my extra-sensitive sense of smell, I must say that this is the perfect mix of floral and fruity in one bottle. When this balance goes out of whack, you can bet I'll be running in the opposite direction.

I love spraying it on when I'm in a party mood, or when I'm wearing my best pair of stilettos, because it instantly makes me feel more "dressed up."

Ralph, Lancome, Bobbi Brown and Origins at Rustan's Makati; Sugar Baby at Essenses, Rustan's Makati; L'oreal at PCX and select department stores.

E-mail the author at lora_gahol@yahoo.com

RALPH
COOL
RALPH

RALPH Cool Eau de Toilette

LANCÔME
PARIS
PALETTE 002
JUICY

LANCÔME Palette Juicy Rouge

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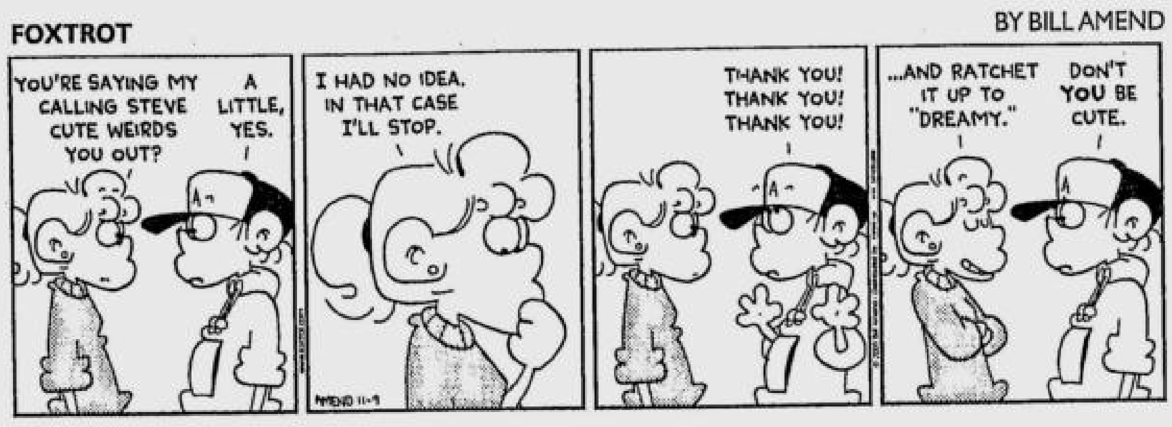
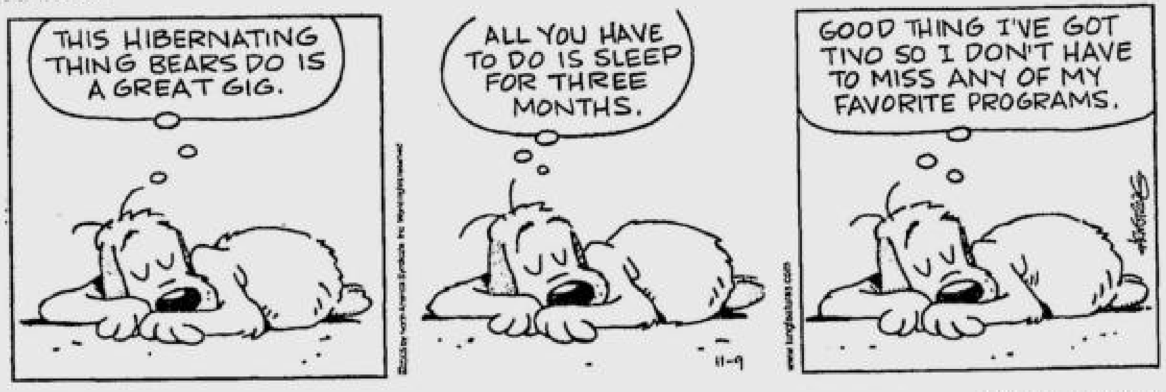
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU'RE SAYING MY CALLING STEVE CUTE WEIRDS YOU OUT?
A LITTLE, YES.
I HAD NO IDEA. IN THAT CASE I'LL STOP.
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
...AND RATCHET IT UP TO "DREAMY."
DON'T YOU BE CUTE.
AMEND 11-9

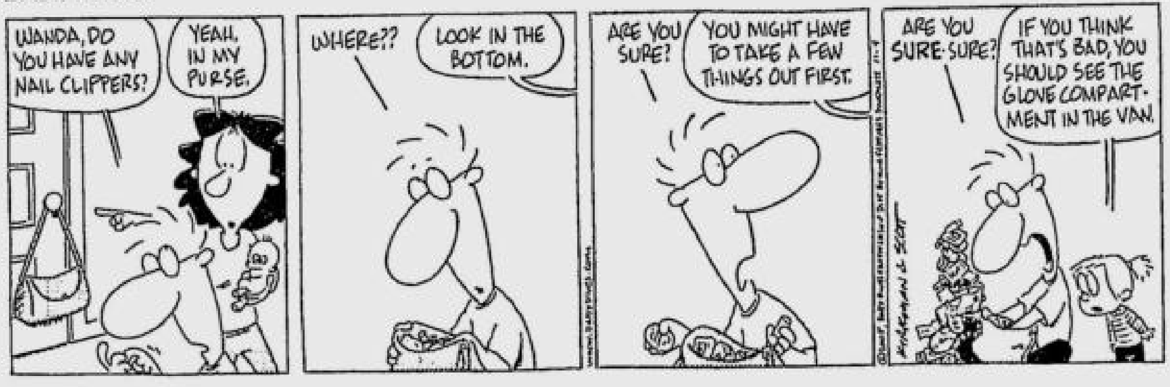
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THIS HIBERNATING THING BEARS DO IS A GREAT GIG.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SLEEP FOR THREE MONTHS.
GOOD THING I'VE GOT TIVO SO I DON'T HAVE TO MISS ANY OF MY FAVORITE PROGRAMS.
11-9

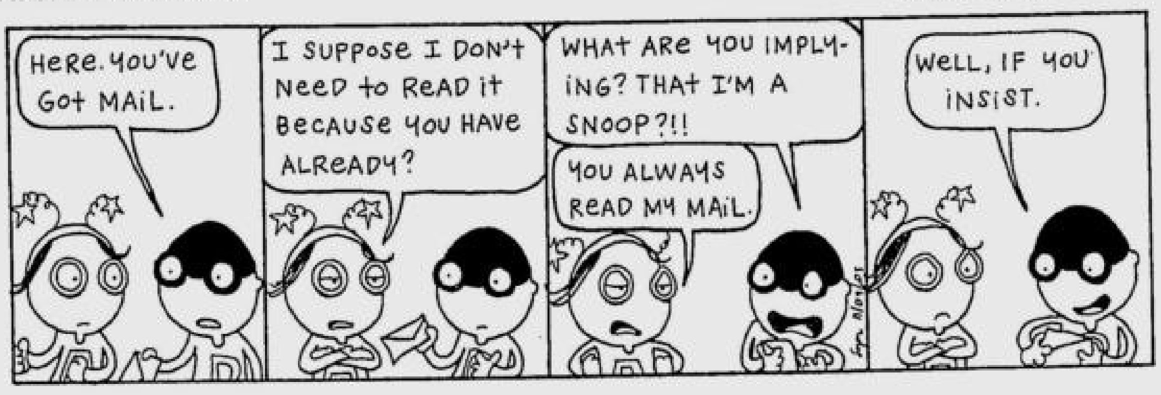
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WANDA, DO YOU HAVE ANY NAIL CLIPPERS?
YEAH, IN MY PURSE.
WHERE??
LOOK IN THE BOTTOM.
ARE YOU SURE?
YOU MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE A FEW THINGS OUT FIRST.
ARE YOU SURE-SURE?
IF YOU THINK THAT'S BAD, YOU SHOULD SEE THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT IN THE VAN.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Here. You've Got MAiL.
I SuppoSe I Don't Need to Read it Because You HAVE ALReADY?
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYiNG? THAT I'M A SNOOP?!!
YOU ALWAYS READ MY MAiL.
WELL, IF YOU iNSiST.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You love the good life. You can't resist earthly pleasures. That's because you're caught up in the excitement of the moment. This makes you very spontaneous! It also makes you extremely glamorous in the eyes of others. (You don't mind this.) This year is the time for finishing things to create room for something new to begin. **Birthdate of: Lou Ferrigno, Mr. Universe/actor; Nick Lachey, singer; Tom Fogerty, musician.**

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're more concerned than usual with honesty and getting to the bottom of things. You won't be lied to. You want the truth.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're focused on partnerships, close friendships and those who are close to you. You might wonder why others are reacting to you the way they are.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Since you have the determination and energy to work hard now, roll up your sleeves and get a lot done! Make hay while the sun shines!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You want to please yourself now, and that's OK. You might also be more involved in working with children at this time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Situations at home and within your family command your attention now. You might also be involved with changes in real estate or improving where you live.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Study, reading and writing assume greater importance for you now. Short trips are necessary. (Hold on to your money today.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're thinking a lot about what it is you really value. On the surface, you might be concerned with money—earning it or spending it. But the bottom line is: What will make you happy?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an extremely fortunate time for you, because for the first time in 12 years, lucky Jupiter is in your sign. It's going to stay there for a year! Yay!

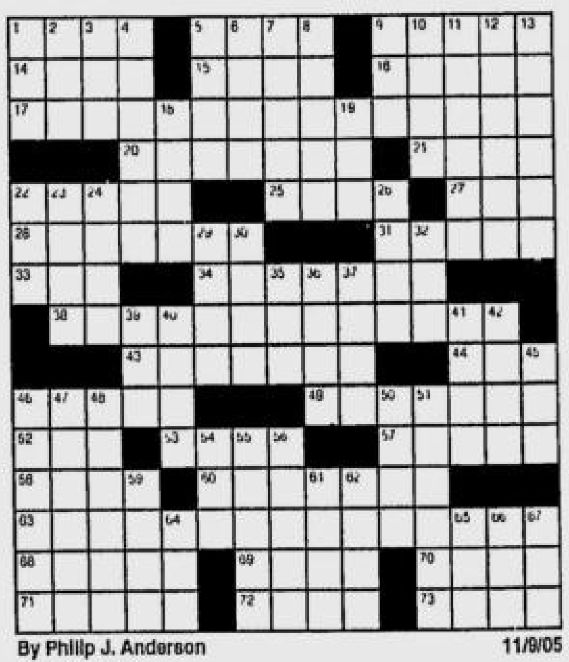
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): With both Mercury and Pluto in your sign, you have the mind of the world's top detective. To be honest, you also have the mind of the world's top criminal. You see hidden agendas.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your ability to do research now is absolutely fantastic. Dig deep and ferret out whatever secrets have eluded you in the past. You'll be successful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): With both the Sun and Jupiter at high noon in your chart, you can't go wrong. What do you want? (A card that reads "Proceed to Go. Do not stop in jail. Collect $200.")

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Do whatever you can to expand your world. You're hungry for adventure. You're also hungry to learn new things. You want to break free of the boundaries that hold you back. This is a good attitude.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
11/9/05

ACROSS

1 Largest of our seven
5 Sacred service
9 Bed supports
14 Uncool kid
15 The same, on the Seine
16 Wilkes-__, PA
17 Gambler's choice
20 Anti-inflammatory drug
21 Med. sch. subj.
22 Colorful chalcedony
25 Experiment
27 Ripen
28 Side-to-side
31 Family of Indy winners
33 MOMA word
34 French Open champ
38 Gambler's choice
43 Disciple
44 Stroke gently
46 Shells and elbows
49 Small trading units
52 TV brand
53 "Peter Pan" pirate
57 Rajah's wife
58 Pac-10 team
60 Tumbler
63 Gambler's choice
68 Ms. Lauder
69 Lustful look
70 Hosiery hue
71 Stone pillar
72 Not working
73 Paper quantity

DOWN

1 Picnic invader
2 __ of Marmara
3 Nettle
4 "__ Fideles"
5 Bundle of nerves
6 Sikorsky of helicopters
7 Fortune deck
8 Songwriter Greenwich
9 Mom-&-pop store grp.
10 Red hot flower?
11 Sites for fights
12 Process for sorting injured
13 Hunting dog
18 Way of old Rome
19 Begley and Meese
22 C.S.A. state
23 John Irving character
24 Aleutian island
26 Ballerina's skirt
29 Dog food brand
30 Country on the Mekong
32 Kind of profit
35 PC monitor element
36 Norway capital
37 Cast off
39 Create lace
40 Arrow-poison tree
41 Current (with)
42 Rose of Reds
45 Mao __-Tung
46 Prigs
47 Confront
48 Military gesture
50 Dang!
51 Shaving foam
54 Actress West
55 Pathogenic bacteria
56 Goofed
59 Seth's brother
61 Like Nash's lama
62 Endured
64 Grant or Majors
65 Rink surface
66 Gun lobby
67 Plant secretion

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

S	M	O	G	■	D	U	D	E	■	V	O	L	E	S
H	I	V	E	■	A	T	O	M	I	C	P	I	L	E
A	L	O	E	■	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	I	C
R	A	I	S	E	■	■	E	T	O	■	L	E	E	S
I	N	D	E	P	E	N	D	E	N	T	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	A	P	O	■	■	S	I	C	K	L	E
A	N	N	A	■	E	U	R	O	■	V	A	N	E	D
P	E	O	P	L	E	N	O	T	V	O	T	I	N	G
B	A	S	S	O	■	S	I	T	E	■	S	T	A	Y
S	T	E	E	L	S	■	■	E	S	C	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	L	I	B	E	R	T	A	R	I	A	N
O	R	A	L	■	L	A	M	■	■	B	O	B	B	Y
R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N	■	N	E	A	L
C	O	E	X	I	S	T	E	N	T	■	C	A	T	O
A	S	S	E	T	■	S	E	T	H	■	O	M	E	N

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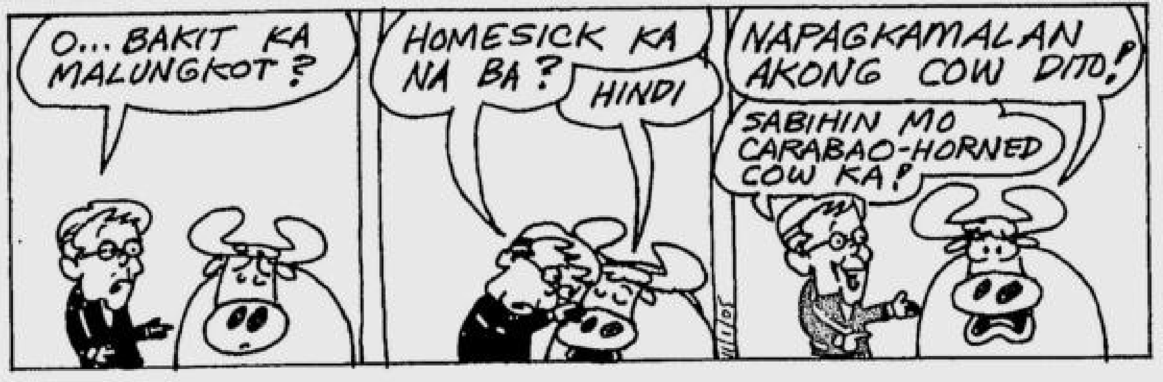
11/8/05

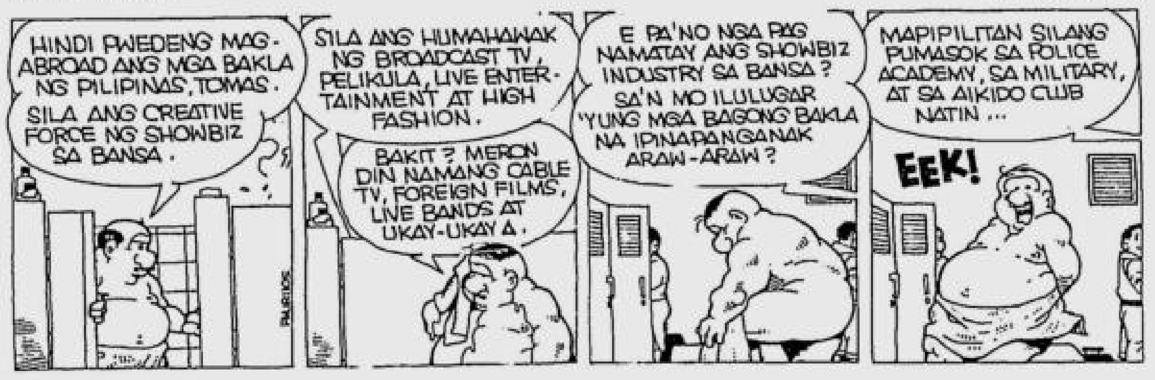
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT KA MALUNGKOT?
HOMESICK KA NA BA?
HINDI
NAPAGKAMALAN AKONG COW DITO!
SABIHIN MO CARABAO-HORNED COW KA!

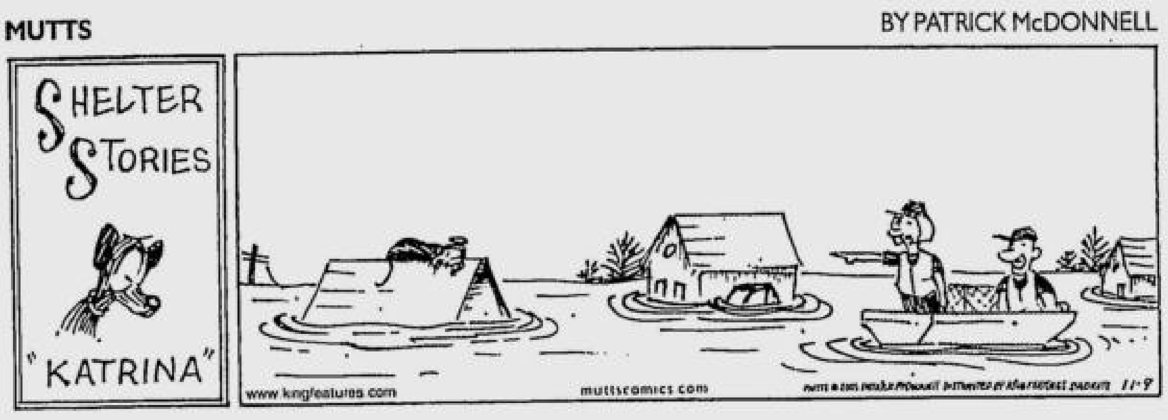
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


HINDI PWEDENG MAG-ABROAD ANG MGA BAKLA NG PILIPINAS, TOMAS.
SILA ANG CREATIVE FORCE NG SHOWBIZ SA BANSA.
SILA ANG HUMAHAWAK NG BROADCAST TV, PELIKULA, LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT HIGH FASHION.
BAKIT? MERON DIN NAMANG CABLE TV, FOREIGN FILMS, LIVE BANDS AT UKAY-UKAY A.
E PA'NO NGA PAG NAMATAY ANG SHOWBIZ INDUSTRY SA BANSA?
SA'N MO ILULUGAR 'YUNG MGA BAGONG BAKLA NA IPINAPANGANAK ARAW-ARAW?
MAPIPILITAN SILANG PUMASOK SA POLICE ACADEMY, SA MILITARY, AT SA AIKIDO CLUB NATIN ...
EEK!

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL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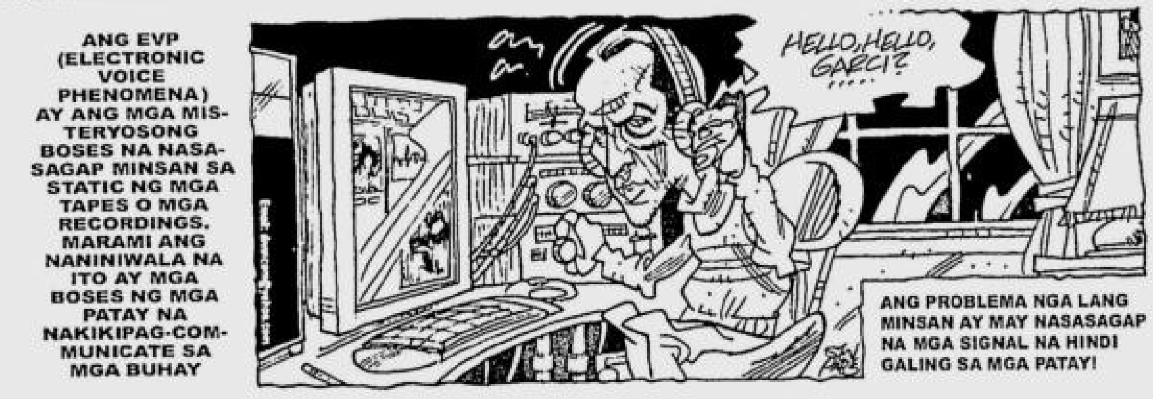
11-9

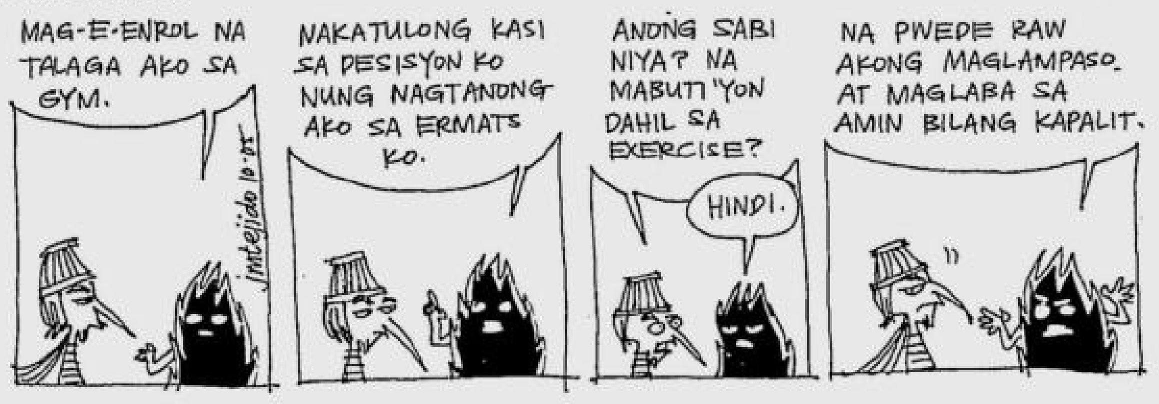
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ANG EVP (ELECTRONIC VOICE PHENOMENA) AY ANG MGA MISTERYOSONG BOSES NA NASASAGAP MINSAN SA STATIC NG MGA TAPES O MGA RECORDINGS. MARAMI ANG NANINIWALA NA ITO AY MGA BOSES NG MGA PATAY NA NAKIKIPAG-COMMUNICATE SA MGA BUHAY
HELLO, HELLO, GARCI?
ANG PROBLEMA NGA LANG MINSAN AY MAY NASASAGAP NA MGA SIGNAL NA HINDI GALING SA MGA PATAY!

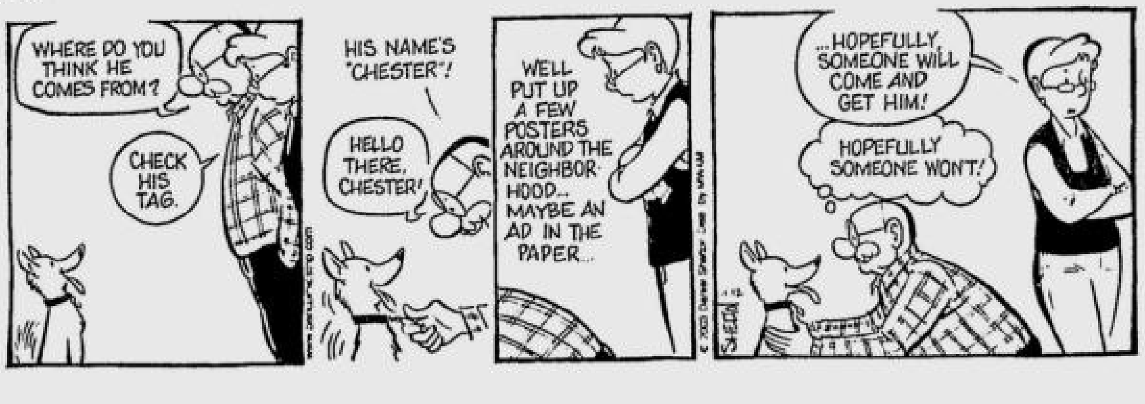
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAG-E-ENROL NA TALAGA AKO SA GYM.
NAKATULONG KASI SA DESISYON KO NUNG NAGTANONG AKO SA ERMATS KO.
ANONG SABI NIYA? NA MABUTI 'YON DAHIL SA EXERCISE?
HINDI.
NA PWEDE RAW AKONG MAGLAMPASO AT MAGLABA SA AMIN BILANG KAPALIT.
jmtejido 10-05

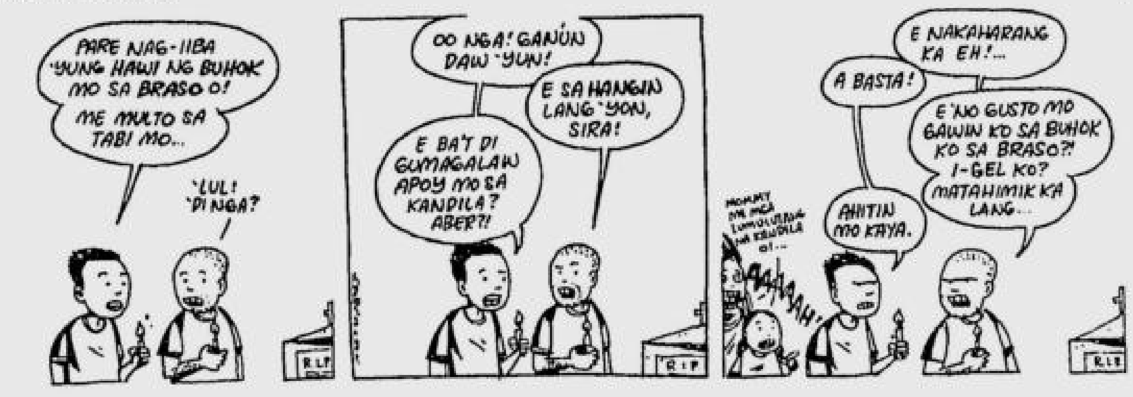
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHERE DO YOU THINK HE COMES FROM?
CHECK HIS TAG.
HIS NAME'S "CHESTER"!
HELLO THERE, CHESTER!
WELL PUT UP A FEW POSTERS AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD... MAYBE AN AD IN THE PAPER...
...HOPEFULLY SOMEONE WILL COME AND GET HIM!
HOPEFULLY SOMEONE WON'T!

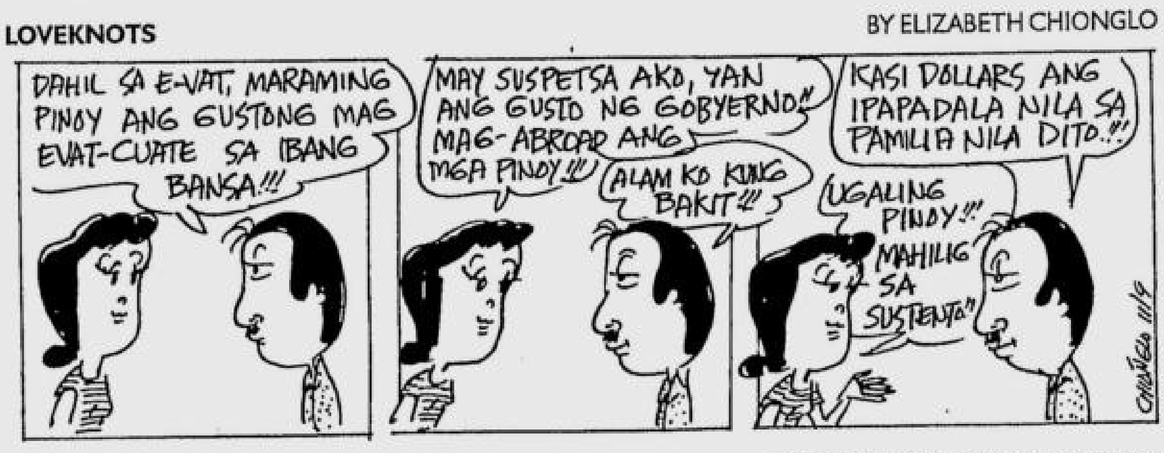
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PARE NAG-IIBA 'YUNG HAWI NG BUHOK MO SA BRASO O!
ME MULTO SA TABI MO...
'LUL! 'PINGA?
OO NGA! GANÚN DAW 'YUN!
E BA'T DI GUMAGALAW APOY MO SA KANDILA? ABER?!
E SA HANGIN LANG 'YON, SIRA!
AAAAAAAH!
A BASTA!
E NAKAHARANG KA EH!...
E 'NO GUSTO MO GAWIN KO SA BUHOK KO SA BRASO?! I-GEL KO? MATAHIMIK KA LANG...
AHITIN MO KAYA.
R.I.P.

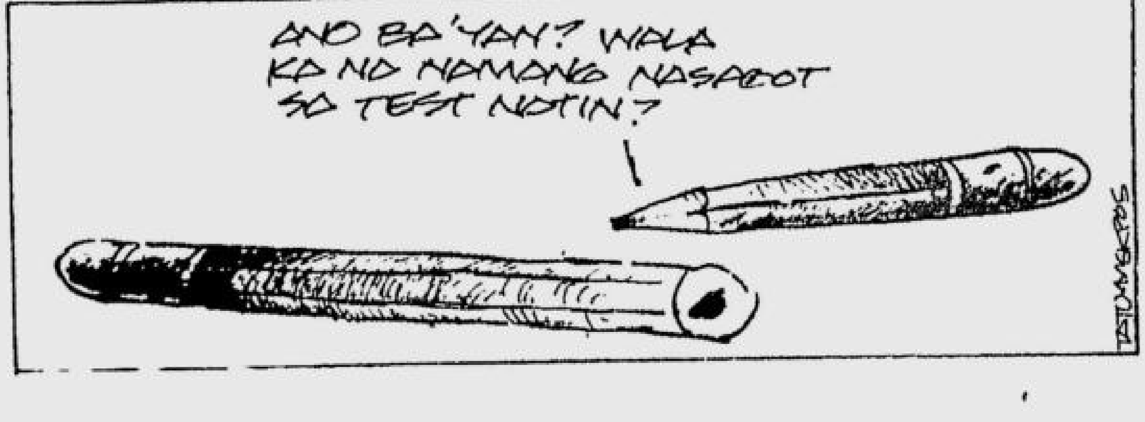
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DAHIL SA E-VAT, MARAMING PINOY ANG GUSTONG MAG EVAT-CUATE SA IBANG BANSA!!!
MAY SUSPETSA AKO, YAN ANG GUSTO NG GOBYERNO!! MAG-ABROAD ANG MGA PINOY!!!
ALAM KO KUNG BAKIT!!!
KASI DOLLARS ANG IPAPADALA NILA SA PAMILIA NILA DITO..!!
UGALING PINOY!!! MAHILIG SA SUSTENTO!!
CHIONGLO 11/9

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANO BA 'YAN? WALA KA NG NAMANG NASAGOT SA TEST NATIN?
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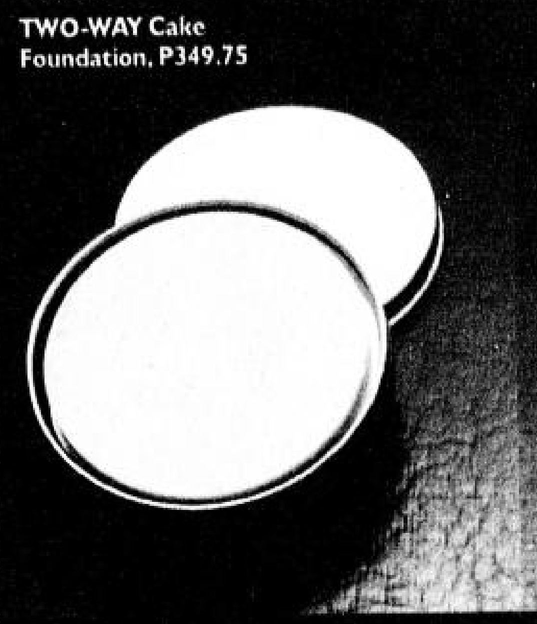
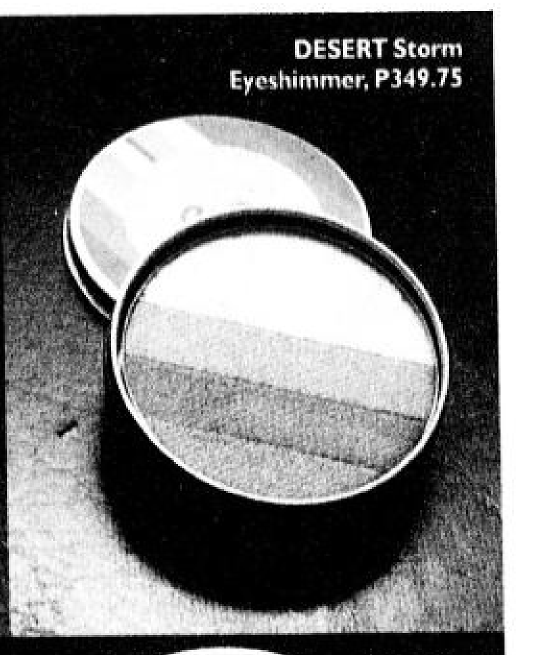
GET a dose of shine, shimmer and color. Lustersticks, P199.75

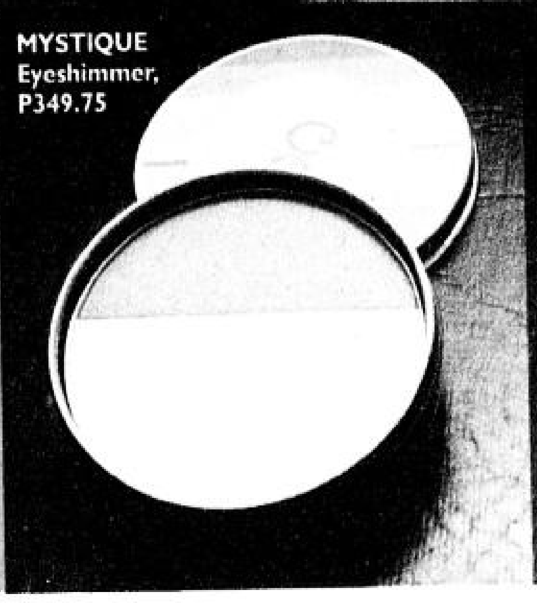


TWO-WAY Cake Foundation, P349.75

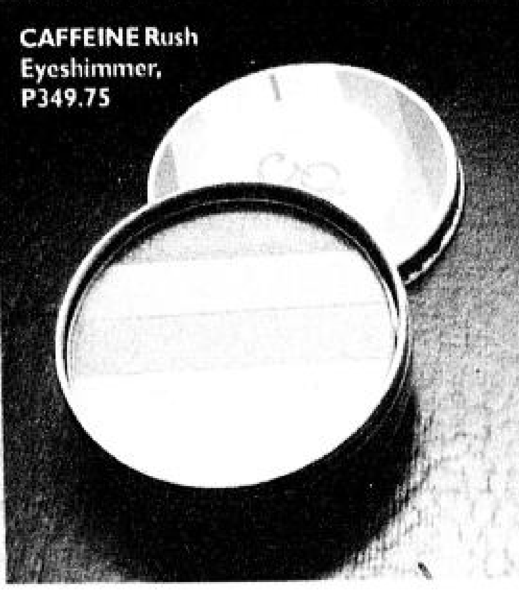
DREAMSCAPE Eyeshimmer, P349.75



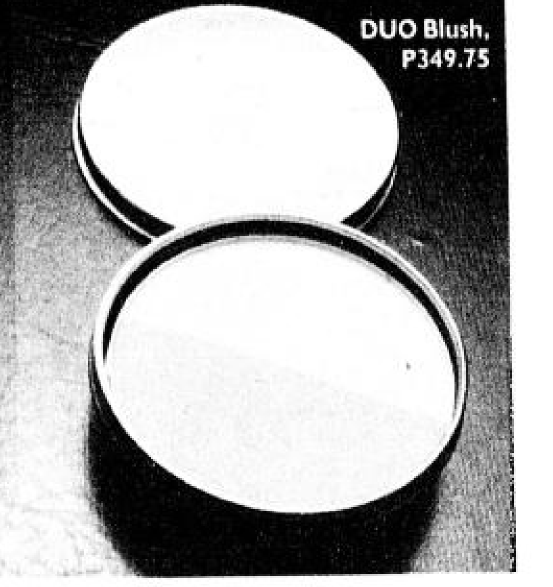
DESERT Storm Eyeshimmer, P349.75



MYSTIQUE Eyeshimmer, P349.75



CAFFEINE Rush Eyeshimmer, P349.75



DUO Blush, P349.75

G-lish is d-lish

By Pam Pastor
Photos by Betoy Johnson

Say hello to makeup for girls who aren't afraid to be who they are

FRIENDS VANESSA Chungunco, Nikki Ng and Charlene Kang-Leong, the young entrepreneurs behind Colorplay Inc., wanted to work on a fun project together. They turned their focus to cosmetics.

"Makeup seemed like fun," they say.

After brainstorming sessions and a few visits abroad, their brand G-lish was born. Their line of fun, funky makeup in tin cans quickly earned them fans who stocked up on their colorful offerings.

Right now, G-Lish has four main products, all of which are made abroad: the Eyeshimmer Combo, the Duo Blush, the Lustersticks and the Two-Way Cake Foundation.

Each tin of Eyeshimmer Combo comes with four different colors. It's available in Desert Storm (greens and neutrals), Dreamscape (blues), the best-selling Mystique (shades of lilac and lavender) and Caffeine Rush (neutrals and golds). Caffeine Rush doubles as a bronzer.

Duo Blush comes in two colors—Tutu, a lighter shade for daytime, and Pinched, a stronger color which can be used for evenings.

As the name suggests, the Two-Way Cake Foundation can be used in two ways: dry, like you would use a pressed powder; or wet, for more coverage. But Nikki is quick to stress, "Unlike other dry-wet foundations, this doesn't give the user that dry, cakey and smile-and-your-face-will-crack feeling."

The Lustersticks will give your lips a dose of shine, shimmer and color. It comes in five colors: Traffic ("a traffic-causing red"), Hot Lava ("a daring yet very wearable shade of orange"), Plum Intrigue ("a mysterious and more dangerous alternative to pink"), Sandalwood ("a natural yet not so nude shade") and the bestseller Ballet Slipper ("perfect pink lips all the time").

Perhaps one of the G-lish girls' success secrets is that they are big fans of their own products. "It's a constant in my handbag any time of day," Nikki says of the Duo Blush. She also loves Ballet Slipper ("If I'm feeling girly") and Sandalwood ("For an everyday natural look").

Nikki says the quality and the packaging of their products set them apart from other beauty booty available in the market. "Our clients comment on how our makeup doesn't wear off during long days," she notes.

G-lish products are sold at pocket-friendly prices. The Lustersticks are sold at P199.75 each while the Eyeshimmer, Two-Way Cake Foundation and Duo-Blush all go for P349.75.

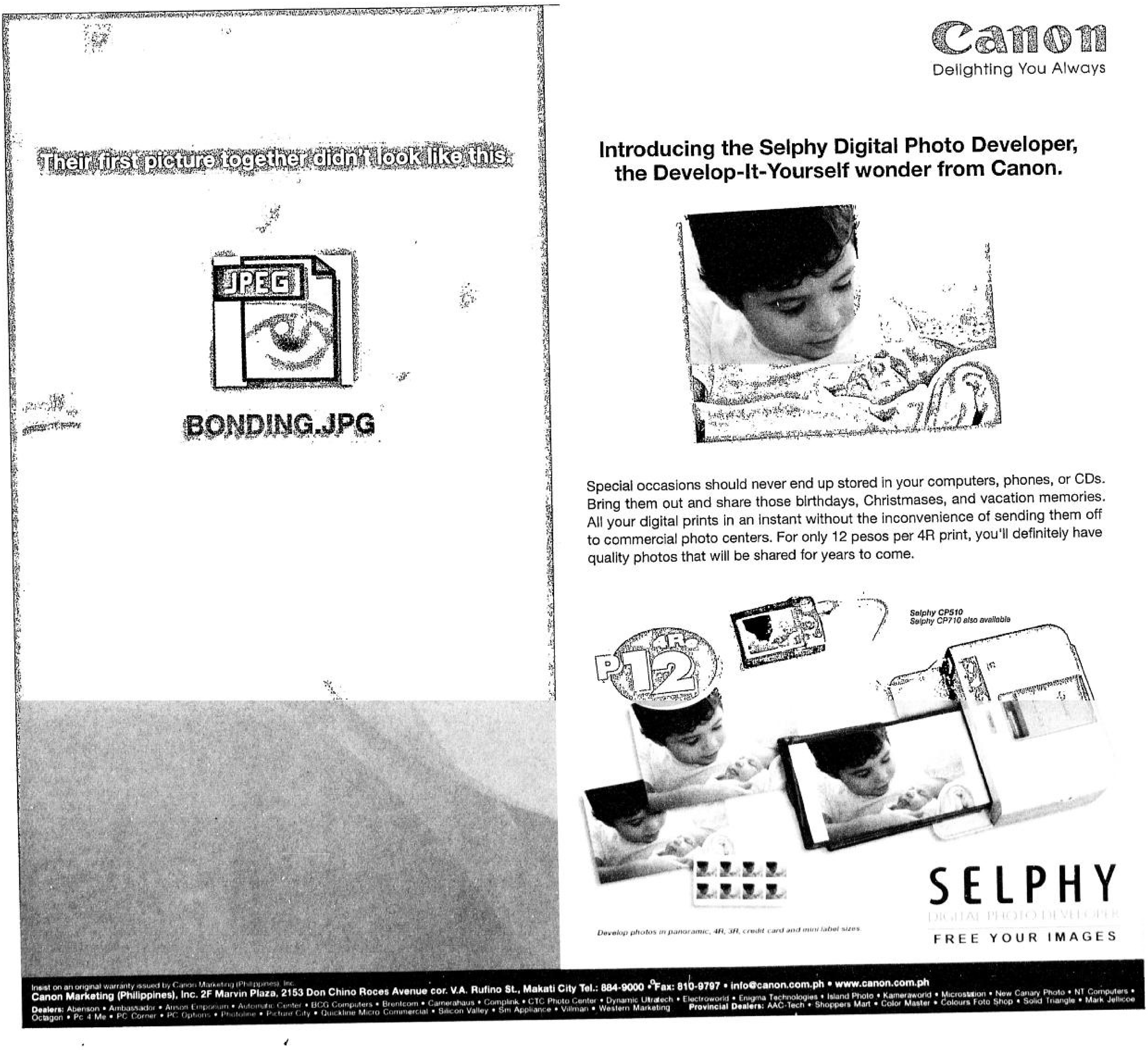
The girls behind G-lish all enjoy being young entrepreneurs. "We can be bolder in our decision-making. We learn as we go along. Since we're good friends, it's okay to make little mistakes along the way. We just laugh about it."

They have a lot of plans for G-lish. "We will expand and have more boutiques," they say. They are also planning special Christmas gift packages for their clients.

Vanessa, Nikki and Charlene continue to be inspired by young people who think for themselves, by girls who are not afraid to be who they are. Just the kind of girls G-lish was made for.

Check out G-lish at the G-lish Boutique (BL-4 Bridgeway, 2/L Greenhills Theatermall) or call +639178051166.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



Their first picture together didn't look like this.

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Beauty without boundaries

Once again, Shu Uemura fuses beauty and art for the sake of charity

By Bianca Consunji
2bU! Correspondent

COUNT ON THE JAPANESE to make a seemingly ordinary beauty product such as a makeup remover into a work of art. With the introduction of the 2005 Limited Edition High Performance Cleansing Oils, S hu Uemura, one of the country's top cosmetic brands, has once again successfully fused beauty and art in one package.

The latest edition of the top-selling cleansing oils (a bottle is sold every 30 seconds, and is patronized by celebrities such as Gwyneth Paltrow and Cate Blanchett) is decorated with art by Ai Yamaguchi, a young Japanese artist whose style combines classical Japanese art and contemporary animation. Her works also graced the bottles of the brand's cleansing oils last year.

HAKE brush set, for auction

2005 Ai Yamaguchi Cleansing Oil set

While Yamaguchi's art last year featured girls inspired by the Edo period, this year's theme is focused on the cycles of the seasons as seen from the Uemura gardens in Japan. Each bottle represents a different season and is painted accordingly so. The bottle of the latest variant, the pink Fresh, represents spring with blossoms. The anti-aging Green Tea signifies summer with shrubs, the orange Enriched variant shows a shower of autumn leaves, and the yellow Classic variant is painted with snowflakes. All of the bottles feature a fairy subtly hidden among the scenery.

Fans of Yamaguchi's work may also want to get the limited-edition palette. The compact, which is decorated with blossoms on its smooth black surface and a fairy embossed in the mirror, can fit four eye shadows or two blush pans.

But the beautiful artwork featured on the bottles and compact is not just for show. It is there for a reason, and a good one at that. This year, Shu Uemura has tied up with L'Arche Foundation, a charity organization for special children, in accordance with Shu Uemura's philosophy of "beauty without boundaries."

Tonight at 7, the brand will be holding a Shu by Ai launch party at The Loft at Rockwell. The event will feature an auction of works of art such as Hake brush sets (kabuki makeup brushes mounted on panels depicting the four seasons), lithographs and complete sets of the cleansing oils encased in beautiful gift boxes. All—and not just a piddling percentage—of the proceeds of that day's sale will go to the L'Arche foundation.

Also, Motorola, a co-sponsor of the event, will be giving away several PEBL phones to lucky guests.

Motorola is also showing its commitment to the cause by commissioning young Filipino artists Kiko Escora, Jason Moss, Maria Taniguchi and graphic design group Team Manila (dubbed the MotoArtists) to create their own interpretations of the "PEBL-shaped by nature."

These works of art will be unveiled and auctioned off along with Ai Yamaguchi's work. And as with the beauty products, all the proceeds of the auction will be given to the L'Arche foundation.

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